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Shaming of Olympic ideal



Salt Lake City and Sydney keep Games

By JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

THE ruling body of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) yesterday recommended that six IOC members be expelled in the biggest scandal in the 104-year history of the Games.

Three other members have already resigned and three more remain under investigation in the £500,000 "votes-for-favours" scandal over Salt Lake City's winning bid for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President who is due to retire in 2001, also said yesterday that he would seek a vote of confidence from the remaining members when they hold an extraordinary session in Lausanne on March 17 and 18. His heir apparent is now under investigation.

The crisis has left an indelible stain on the 21-year reign of Señor Samaranch as head of the movement. The expulsions and resignations will not satisfy his critics, who believe he must take more of the blame for the crisis.

Leading international sponsors, such as Coca-Cola and Time Magazine, who put hundreds of millions of pounds into the Games, are threatening to halt financial support unless there is a complete break with the past.

The remaining members of the 112-strong Committee, including the Princess Royal, are expected to back the Executive Board recommendation to expel the six, all of whom are

either African or South American. A two-thirds majority is needed to carry out what would be the first expulsions in the history of the Olympics.

Señor Samaranch said: "We encourage them to tender their resignation. They don't have to wait to be expelled. It is better to put an end to this most dire chapter in the history of the Olympics. These members have done great harm to the Olympic family and now their greatest service to the Olympic movement is simply to accept their fate."

Señor Samaranch pledged yesterday that both the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney and the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City would continue at their chosen venues. There were further revelations over the week-end that Sydney agreed in 1993 to give cash to the national Olympic committees of Kenya and Uganda to ensure their support for 2000. Sydney won by only two votes from Beijing.

The most famous member facing expulsion is Jean-Claude Ganga, from the Congo, arguably the most important man in African sport and the man who led the move to ban Rhodesia from the 1972 Olympics and also the Black African boycott of the 1976 Games in Montreal. Mr Ganga, an IOC member since 1986, was accused of making more than £30,000 from a land deal set up by Salt Lake City. The remaining five mem-



Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President, at the press conference in Lausanne

bers to face expulsion are: Carlos Arroyo of Ecuador; Zein El Abdin Abdel Gadir of Sudan; Lamine Keita of Mali; Charles Nderitu Mukora of Kenya and Sergio Santander Fantini of Chile.

The three who have resigned are: Frigo Haeggman of Finland and Basfir Muhammad Atanabulsi of Libya, both of whom made their decisions last week, and David Sibande of Swaziland, who acted yesterday.

Anton Gessink of The Netherlands, the 1964 Olympic judo champion, was also given a severe reprimand after an academy which bears his name received £3,500.

However, the spiralling crisis also includes further inquiries into the activities of three other powerful members. They are Kim Un Yong of South Korea, a possible successor to Señor Samaranch, Vitali Smirnov of Russia and Louis Guiraudou of Ivory Coast. However, IOC sources said last night that they were

expected to be cleared of any wrongdoing.

Yesterday's decision by the all-powerful Executive Board, which met in Lausanne, followed a five-week investigation. Members were accused of accepting inducements of up to a total of £500,000 in cash and benefits from Salt Lake City. There were also reports of gifts and free medical care.

Gold rush, page 4
Time to go, page 35

Passive corruption of a pretend president

By SIMON BARNES

THE last Olympic press conference shown on television in this country concerned the Canadian gold medal-winning snowboarder Ross Rebagliati, who had tested positive for marijuana. He told the world it was an accident; he was the victim of passive smoking.

Yesterday, the President of the International Olympic Committee, Juan Antonio Samaranch, held a press conference to tell the world that he was guilty of passive corruption. He apologised on behalf of everybody else, making it quite plain that he himself was more to be pitied than blamed. The two performances were equally convincing.

Señor Samaranch said that six members of the IOC were recommended for expulsion for receiving gifts from cities wishing to stage the Olympic Games. An Ethics Commission will be formed. Señor Samaranch is a politician through and through; when in trouble blame everybody else and form a committee.

Señor Samaranch, now 78, said that he had not even considered resigning. He will stay on until 2001. He delivered the words like a mild-mannered dalek: as ever the only living man who actually looks like his own passport photograph. He always manages to come across as the kind of President who gives megalomania a good name.

The fact is, of course, that this monstrously self-aggrandising leader of men is not a real president at all. He is called Mr President wherever he goes, is treated with great

deference and is given the best of everything as of right. But he is a pretend president: president not of a country but of a body that puts on something that just happens to be the finest sport in the history of the world. There is certainly money, power and prestige involved; but only in the distribution of sporting and commercial favours.

But Señor Samaranch has always wanted the Nobel Peace Prize. He is always to be found with phrases like "Olympic ideal" on his lips. Love, peace, brotherhood and international goodwill just happen to be the most wonderfully marketable notions: especially if you happen to be an international company. But of course it is all phoney.

The Games are not about brotherhood and sisterhood. They are about competition, which happens to make riveting television. Hence the money, hence the power. The sport is dressed up in cosy, phoney virtue.

A couple of decades ago it seemed the Olympics would be brought low by lack of staging. The Games had become

prohibitively expensive. It was Señor Samaranch's achievement to change all that: the Olympics are now the most colossal revenue earner. Thus the Games have been brought low by excess of money.

The voting procedure was always carte blanche for casual corruption: corruption has been a standard item of gossip for a decade and more. But too often, the IOC and Señor Samaranch had preferred the appearance of virtue to virtue itself. Thus an infected, uninfected toe has become a case of galloping gangrene.

We have heard of attempts to corrupt IOC members by cities that didn't even exist, just as totally unscrupulous athletes have been caught with drugs in their system. In the modern Olympic system, it seems that you need bribes and drugs not for winning but for the simple joys of taking part.

It all comes down to the traditional Olympic confusion of sport and virtue. Goodness, what beautiful pearls, someone said to Mae West. "Goodness has nothing to do with it." Goodness, what beautiful sport.

Blacks and crime

The Home Office has shelved a secret study showing that blacks are far more likely to be criminals than are Asians and whites. Page 2

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Lewinsky back in Washington

Monica Lewinsky in Washington after she returned from Los Angeles under a court order to be interviewed by Republicans about President Clinton's impeachment trial.

Judge Norma Holloway Johnson said she must cooperate or "forfeit her protections" under an immunity deal. Page 13

US bombs Iraqi missile sites

American fighters bombed two Iraqi surface-to-air missile systems in northern Iraq. The Americans said an F-15E "Strike Eagle" plane had probably scored a direct hit on the site, which "posed a threat to coalition forces in the region". American aircraft also fired anti-radar missiles at another Iraqi missile site near Mosul.

Blairs condemn press report on daughter

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Prime Minister and his wife last night objected to the Press Complaints Commission over a newspaper story about Kathryn, their ten-year-old daughter.

The Prime Minister's spokesman said that Tony and Cherie Blair had complained to Lord Wakeham, chairman of the commission.

The story in the *Mail on Sunday* referred to the school to which the Blairs are sending their daughter in September and said several parents were accusing the school of giving her a place at the expense of local children.

Mr Blair announced two weeks ago that he was sending his daughter to the Sacred Heart, a Roman Catholic comprehensive in Hammersmith.

But in what is believed to be the first complaint to the commission by a Prime Minister, Mr Blair said the newspaper had breached the code of conduct about press intrusion into children's lives. The spokesman added that the Blairs would be asking the commission about general guidance for the protection of children of public figures.

Government sources said Mr Blair was particularly an-

gry as it appeared that *Mail on Sunday* reporters had been deliberately intrusive and tried to whip up comments by parents. They said that two thirds of children at the school came from outside the catchment area.

The strongly-worded statement, delivered to Lord Wakeham yesterday, said that under the commission's guidelines, children should be able to attend school without press intrusion and that the private lives of children should not be covered simply because they had famous parents.

"The facts are these. The Blairs want their daughter to attend a Catholic comprehensive girls' school, of which there are none in Westminster. The school their daughter is due to attend was their first choice," the statement said. "It is reasonably close to the school attended by their sons, which means the children will be able to travel together."

"As the school head and the local Education Authority have made clear, all the normal procedures were followed in line with the school's admissions policy, and the Prime Minister's daughter received no special treatment."

The statement acknowledged that in any over-subscribed school there would be disappointed children and parents, "but to say that amounts to special treatment for one pupil who is being offered a place is wrong, unfair and without any foundation whatever."

It said that the Blairs tolerated a good deal of media attack and intrusion without complaint. "But they see no reason why their children should not be allowed the freedom from intrusion the PCC claims its members support."

The Blairs came under attack four years ago when they announced they were sending their son, Euan, to the grammar-maintained Brompton Oratory in Fulham. His brother, Nicky, followed him later.

The *Mail on Sunday* reported parents as saying that the Blairs should have sent Kathryn closer to home. The Notre Dame High School in Southwark, a Roman Catholic comprehensive, is about two miles from Downing Street, but travel could be difficult given that the boys go to Fulham in west London. Two other Catholic state girls' schools are equidistant to Hammersmith from Downing Street.

Mowlam wants end to beatings

By MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

MO MOWLAM will today meet the political representatives of Northern Ireland's three main paramilitary groups at Stormont to demand an end to all "punishment beatings" and kneecappings.

Sources said the Northern Ireland Secretary would tell Sinn Féin and the loyalist Progressive Unionist and Ulster Democratic parties of her "abhorrence at 'punishment attacks' and their obligation to do all they can to halt them."

The meeting comes as the Government faces pressure from Labour backbenchers as well as the Conservatives to suspend the release of terrorist prisoners because the attacks violate the Good Friday peace accord. The Northern Ireland Office denied reports yesterday that Dr Mowlam was considering a move of that sort.

"These are mutilations, there are people with their legs being blown off," William Hague, the Conservative leader, said on television. He believed to release prisoners early is a mistake.

Ulster beatings, page 6

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Straw shelves study on black criminality

THE Home Office has shelved a highly sensitive study showing that black people are far more likely than Asian or whites to become involved in crime.

The confidential study was carried out by a senior Home Office researcher for Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, and its circulation has been tightly restricted.

Senior police believe the study has been "put on the back-burner" because of the impending report into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence, which is expected to criticise police racism. They are frustrated that Mr Straw is shying away from a public debate on the scale of black criminality and the reasons for it.

One police source said that the Home Office study was "a fairly sensitive piece of work. It is about where we are going, and there are some unhappy conclusions. It is substantial and quite revealing."

Although the study raises important questions on crimes by members of ethnic minorities, a Home Office source confirmed that no action has been planned as a result.

The author of the study was Dr Marion Fitzgerald, a senior criminologist and sociologist in the Home Office's research and development section, who has written other papers on race and crime statistics. The study analyses material published during the 1990s and questions why a higher proportion of the black popula-

Conclusions of report on racial factors are being kept under lock and key, reports Stewart Tendler

tion than the Asian population is linked to crime.

The study has drawn on Home Office statistics for 1997-98 on the relationship between ethnic communities and the criminal justice system. Those statistics show that 2 per cent of the population aged ten and above in England and Wales are black, 3 per cent Asian, and another 1 per cent linked to the Far East, Middle East or other parts of the world.

There were nearly two million arrests in 1997-98 of which 7 per cent or 138,000 were of black people, 4 per cent or 80,100 were Asian, and 18,000 or 1 per cent were other people of non-white origin.

Research in ten forces that cover two thirds of the population from ethnic minority backgrounds in England and Wales, showed that in Leicestershire there were 232 arrests for every 1,000 black people aged ten and over, 43 per 1,000 Asians and 34 per 1,000 whites. The highest figure for Asians was in Thames Valley

at 108 per thousand and the highest for whites was in Lancashire with 53 per 1,000.

Dr Fitzgerald's report examines the situation in London, analysing the possible influence of the high rates of family break-up in the black community on criminal behaviour, as well as the economic and cultural cost of crime to the communities.

It could influence policy decisions on how to prevent youngsters from ethnic backgrounds becoming offenders.

Dr Fitzgerald is a former academic who joined the Home Office more than a decade ago. She prepared research on crime and race for the royal commission on the criminal justice system under Lord Runciman and has published papers on ethnic monitoring in police forces and victimisation and harassment of people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

Three years ago the sensitivity of the issue of race and crime was highlighted when Scotland Yard launched Operation Eagle Eye against street muggers. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, was widely attacked for saying that young black people were suspected of committing the majority of street robberies.

A spokesman for the Home Office said that the study was an internal paper and there was no question of anything being suppressed or delayed because of the Stephen Lawrence inquiry.



Rupert and Sheila Sylvester, whose son died in hospital, walking either side of a priest at the head of the march yesterday

Grieving parents demand explanation

BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

THE parents of a 30-year-old black man who died after being overpowered by eight policemen marched to a police station yesterday wearing shirts printed with the words "Who killed my son?"

Rupert and Sheila Sylvester, whose son Roger died last Tuesday after eight days in a coma, were joined by 600 marchers, including Neville Lawrence, father of Stephen, whose racist murder was unsolved because of apparent police blunders.

"It's another person who has been killed," said Mr Lawrence. "Even with the focus on the police, they still continue to do the same. It's business as usual as far as I am concerned."

The deeply religious family, originally from Granada, led a dignified march through the racially tense area

of Tottenham, north London, the parents holding the hands of their minister the Rev Gerald Bruce, singing "We shall overcome".

At the police station, candles were lit and left burning on the railings as an increasingly agitated crowd shouted: "Murderers" at the police.

Roger Sylvester's mysterious death has ignited the black community in a district which was inflamed by the 1993 death of Joy Gardner, who died after her head was covered in sticky tape while she was being deported.

Police and black community leaders have been struggling to build trust since the 1985 Broadwater Farm riot, when PC Keith Blacklock was murdered.

According to the police, Mr Sylvester was restrained after being found na-

ked, banging on a door in his own street in Tottenham two weeks ago. He was handcuffed and taken to St Ann's Hospital to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act but suffered a respiratory arrest while being assessed by medical staff.

He was taken to North Middlesex Hospital and finally Whittington Hospital where he died in the intensive care unit.

The family, who have been trying to stop the campaign being hijacked by Trotskists and black-power militants, gathered outside his home in Summerhill Road yesterday afternoon.

Mr Bruce from the Finsbury Park Methodist Church said: "We pray that Roger's death will be a means whereby we can change our society in a peaceful, powerful way."



Roger Sylvester: family led march

Staff get a right to unpaid leave

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

COMPANIES will be forced to allow their staff to take unpaid "emergency" days off under an ambitious package of measures to help families, to be unveiled by the Government this week.

The Fairness at Work Bill will outline a series of proposals to extend maternity leave, introduce statutory parental leave and allow staff an unlimited number of days off. These would have to be for urgent reasons such as sickness in the family, bereavement, trouble at school, help for elderly parents, accidents or domestic crises.

Ministers will be consulting on the best way to stop abuse of the new regulations, although the days off will be unpaid. Stephen Byers, the Trade and Industry Secretary will also announce that the Government is cutting from two years to one the amount of time that staff need to be employed before they are entitled to unpaid maternity leave.

At the moment pregnant women are entitled to 18 weeks statutory maternity pay from the day they join a company.

They are also entitled to 14 weeks statutory maternity leave from day one and up to 40 weeks unpaid leave if they have been in the company for two years.

But under regulations following the Fairness at Work Bill, all new mothers will qualify for 18 weeks statutory leave from day one, and up to 40 weeks unpaid after one year instead of two.

The Bill will also allow three months unpaid parental leave to be taken by either or both parents in addition to maternity leave. Although details have yet to be finalised, this could be taken until the child is 11 or even up to 16. It could be taken in one chunk or spread over six months as part of jobshare.

Parents who adopt children will be also entitled to take three months leave to allow them to bond with their child.

The main focus of the Bill will be on statutory recognitions for unions. Mr Byers has decided to keep all the changes on the issue that were announced by Peter Mandelson in December shortly before he was forced to resign over the home-loan affair.

Irvine heads off clash with judges over powers

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor has defused a potential clash with senior judges over the powers he proposes for himself over the justice system and legal profession.

Lord Irvine of Lairg has told peers that he will accept amendments aimed at curbing the powers set out in his Access to Justice Bill. Both the Lord Chief Justice, Lord Bingham of Cornhill, and the Master of the Rolls, Lord Woolf, are backing the restrictions suggested last week at the Committee stage.

An amendment tabled by Lord Lloyd of Berwick, a retired law lord, and backed by several peers as well as the Bar, sets out principles that would govern the exercise of powers by the Lord Chancellor. These include: that people should not be denied access to justice or the machinery of justice on account of their means; that legal services ensure that disputes are settled expeditiously; and that a strong, independent and self-regulating legal profession be preserved.

Two weeks ago, Lord Irvine's proposals came under attack from a select committee

under Lord Alexander of Weordon which said the powers proposed for the Lord Chancellor were "almost untrammelled" and of "considerable concern".

Under the Bill, the Lord Chancellor will direct the Legal Services Commission which replaces the Legal Aid Board. The commission will run the proposed Community Legal Service and Criminal Defence Service in the allocation of £1.6 billion of public funds spent on legal services.

The Bill also enables the

Lord Chancellor to take increased powers over the rules of the legal profession, including the determination of rights of audience.

But in concessions made during debate last week on the Bill, Lord Irvine has accepted that there should be a statutory statement of purpose governing the Bill. He also accepted that provisions on how the money will be allocated should be laid before Parliament in draft and subject to affirmative procedure. On the issue of the independence of the legal profession — on which Lord Irvine was facing widespread opposition, he said: "I believe profoundly that a strong, independent and self-regulating legal profession should be preserved."

He said he would look at how he can strengthen the wording of the Bill to enshrine the importance of advocates being independent; and, in response to concerns expressed by Lord Ackner, a retired law lord, at how to ensure that only advocates with specific skills and knowledge, and subject to a code of discipline, are allowed to take cases in courts.



Irvine will accept peers' amendments to Bill

MP agrees age of consent deal

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE Labour MP who led opposition last year to reducing the age of consent for homosexuals to 16 yesterday called on Labour MPs to back the new Bill making the change.

Joe Ashton, MP for Bassetlaw, said he would support the second reading today of the Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill after the Government's decision to bring in safeguards to protect vulnerable teenagers from being exploited by people such as teachers and careworkers in positions of trust.

He said last night: "The position taken by me and other Labour MPs was never anti-gay. It was the fear that lowering the age of consent to 16 would mean that more young people would fall prey to people who abuse their positions of trust. Now I am happy to ask all Labour MPs to vote for the Bill and I hope that the Lords will back it as well."

The safeguards had been sought by Mr Ashton and other Labour MPs when the attempt to bring in a lower age of consent fell at the last hurdle after defeat in the Lords of an amendment to the Crime and Disorder Bill. Mr Ash-

ton's stand in the Commons — he secured the backing of about 30 Labour MPs — was seen by peers as justification for opposing the will of the Commons.

Fears of losing the whole Bill persuaded Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, not to press the issue. Instead, he promised to bring back a government measure in this parliamentary session after a study of the concerns raised by Mr Ashton.

The Bill introduces a new offence of abuse of trust that will apply equally to young men and women. It would protect 16 and 17 year olds from sexual pressures from those in positions of authority and trust by making such advances a criminal offence. It would apply to adults such as teachers, carers, prison staff and hospital workers.

The offence will criminalise only the older partner but it effectively outlaws teacher-pupil love affairs. Gay rights groups such as Stonewall have been mollified by the Government's agreement that the anti-abuse law should apply equally to both sexes.

Man, 45, faces ten charges over two girls

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A MAN aged 45 will appear in court today facing ten charges over the disappearance of two girls. Alan Edward Hopkinson is accused of kidnapping, abduction, false imprisonment and other alleged offences relating to serious assaults.

Mr Hopkinson, from Langney, Eastbourne, East Sussex, has been in custody at Hastings police station since his arrest on Friday and is due to appear at the town's magistrates' court this morning.

The court is expected to be packed with reporters and police said yesterday that they were preparing for the possibility that a large crowd could gather outside the courthouse. Mr Hopkinson will be taken from the police station to the courthouse via an underground passage connecting the buildings.

He was charged on Saturday night after a huge police operation to find the girls, both aged 10, who went missing while on their way to school last Tuesday morning. They were reunited with their families on Friday evening after being found safe.

Earlier today churchgoers in East Sussex said prayers of thanks for the safe return of the girls. The congregation at one church prayed that the youngsters and their families would recover from the ordeal, which shocked the local community.

The church minister said everyone was delighted that the girls had been reunited with their families. "Our prayers have been answered the whole congregation has been so very worried all week and today we thank God for their safe return. Our thoughts are with the girls and their families at this time."

Teachers' pay rise threatens class size pledge

Employers fear a budget-busting 4 per cent award, reports John O'Leary

THE pledge by Tony Blair to cut class sizes would be derailed by an above inflation pay deal for teachers next week, local authority leaders have warned the Government.

Ministers are believed to have been considering a 4 per cent pay award for teachers in England. Although he has refused to give any guarantees, David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, is anxious to pay the award in full rather than in stages, as the past three have been.

But Graham Lane, the education chairman of the Local Government Association, said schools could only afford a three per cent increase from this year's budget. A bigger

rise would mean larger classes unless the Government funded the award.

Mr Lane said: "Every one per cent increase costs £120 million and we simply have not got the money to pay it. No one wants to deny teachers a decent rise, but it has to be one we can afford."

Although the Government's spending assessment for education was 5.5 per cent up on the previous year, many authorities were already spending above the recommended level. With other services' funding being squeezed, schools'

budgets are unlikely to be topped up locally as they have been in recent years.

Mr Lane said councils had put more money aside for teachers' pay than Treasury guidance implied. Rather than allowing for a 2.5 per cent cost of living rise, they had budgeted for three per cent.

"With the school population rising again, we will have no choice but to increase class sizes and cut back other initiatives. If the pay award is too high. This is not some Mexican bargaining trick: I am trying to save the Government from

the same mistake the Tories made when they refused to fund teachers' pay."

The authorities' stance presents ministers with a dilemma when they finalise public sector awards this week. Low recruitment to the profession is causing serious concern and teachers' unions are determined to recoup ground lost over the past three years.

Although the recent Green Paper on the teaching profession holds out the promise of substantial increases for many members of the profession, the awards will not be

seen for at least another year. With Scottish teachers discussing a possible 18 per cent rise over three years, the English unions are reluctant to wait.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers said: "Unless the Government does something about salaries immediately, recruitment problems are going to get worse. Teachers are fed up with being treated as they have been over the last three years, with low increases and phasing."

"They have to treat teaching shortages as seriously as they do nurses."

The NUT is already concerned at the funding allocated for the Green Paper reforms. A union report to be published today will question whether the £1 billion committed for the pay initiative is sufficient to allow a majority of the profession to benefit, as Mr Blunkett has promised.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, said it was essential that teachers should not fall further behind other professions if the reforms were to succeed.

"If this year's settlement is too low, it will wreck the Green Paper exercise," he said.

THE SIGNAL TO GO FASTER.

New hi-tech signalling and automatic barriers on the Felixstowe line mean that more trains will be travelling faster between stations like this one at Trimley www.railtrack.co.uk

RAILTRACK
The heart of the railway

McCartney swears by Linda's last song

SIR PAUL MCCARTNEY has launched a crusade against radio and television stations that have banned the final song by his late wife, Linda, because it contains a "swear" word. The single, *The Light Comes From Within*, is taken from his wife's posthumous solo album, *Wide Prairie*.

Sir Paul has taken out an advertisement on page 17 of *The Times* today, complaining about the censorship and asking the nation's parents to decide whether their children will be "morally corrupted" by the lyric.

"You say I'm simple, you say I'm a dick. You're f---ing no-one, you stupid dick."

Sir Paul said last night that the swear word was used frequently on television and radio and that it was misguided to try to shield children from its use. "Is this the 90s or the 20s?"

The record mocks Lady McCartney's critics, who ridiculed her during her lifetime for her vegetarianism and animal rights campaigns. Her husband feels strongly that, because it is her final musical testament, it should not be sanitised. In the advertisement, Sir

Claudia Joseph and Adrian Lee on a spat with broadcasters over that word

Paul says: "Should you decide that your children must not hear this record, we would be grateful for your wisdom and good sense and will put our fingers in our ears whenever we hear it played."

"If, on the other hand, you feel that no harm will come to your children by being exposed to this song, give the guidance so sorely needed and tell them it's OK to do so."

The song, which goes on sale today, is released by EMI with a parental guidance sticker warning of "explicit lyrics".

PARENTS!

We need your guidance

Part of the advertisement taken out by Sir Paul today

Sir Paul claims it has been banned by BBC Radio, although the B-side, *Seaside Woman*, has been played by Radio 2. An animated video of the song, made by Oscar Grillo, also faces a blackout on *Top of the Pops* and *The Pepsi Music Show*, as well as *Live 8*.

Kicking *The Big Breakfast* and GMTV. Sir Paul, citing broadcasters such as Zoe Ball, who has sworn on her Radio One breakfast show, and Bob Geldof, who swore during his Live Aid appeal, told *The Times*: "I find it all very funny. I don't think

it's annoying. I think it's hilarious. After all, people do use the word on the telly and on the radio too. It does seem bizarre that TV's own people can swear on a show but you can't swear in a song. I don't understand the difference."

Sir Paul has been paid £1 million for the collection of songs written by Lady McCartney. He is expected to donate the money to animal rights charities.

A spokesman for the former Beatle said: "This apparently seditious little word has been



The single's cover, with EMI's warning about the lyrics

spokeswoman for the BBC denied yesterday that there was a blanket ban on the song.

She said: "Bearing in mind audience sensitivity, we might edit as appropriate. If it gets in the Top 40, a radio edit will be played on the chart show." She said the spontaneous use of the swear word by presenters

was frowned upon and, afterwards, they were normally asked to apologise.

A spokesman for Capital Radio in London said the song was not on its playlist. It might be considered later but the swear word would create a problem. "Generally we try to avoid them."

BBC plans £100m concert showcase to surpass Live Aid

THE BBC is organising a £100 million music extravaganza that will surpass Live Aid as the biggest concert event ever staged in Britain. It will be a showcase for British musical talent and will mark the end of the millennium.

Music Live 2000, which is being backed by the Government, will feature the cream of British talent in fields ranging from opera and jazz to pop in a five-day festival in May. Chart-topping pop artists including Oasis, Pulp, Massive Attack, George Michael, Elton John, Catatonia, the Manic Street Preachers, the Spice Girls and the Lightning Seeds are being approached to perform at dozens of venues across the country.

Mick Hucknall, the Simply Red singer who sits on the Government's music task force, has also been approached to be an adviser and a performer. The soprano Lesley Garrett, the Welsh bass-baritone Bryn Terfel and the violinist Nigel Kennedy are also expected to take part.

The BBC, which will announce the festival today, said that it wanted the event to produce the same pride and euphoria that Live Aid did in

Five-day gig spectacular will be the biggest ever held in the UK, reports Carol Midgley

1986. It is also in line with the Government's policy of making more of British music, which achieved domestic sales of £1.08 billion in 1997.

Bill Morris, the festival's director, said: "We want it to be the kind of event where everyone will look back and remember exactly where they were for it."

During the festival, the biggest outdoor event ever attempted by the BBC, the various concerts will be broadcast on BBC1, BBC2, the digital channel BBCi Choice and by all the corporation's national radio stations.

The festival will culminate with a 24-hour "Perfect Day" which will be a continuous broadcast of live music at major venues as well as smaller

street festivals featuring lesser-known artists. One plan is to have the BBC Symphony Orchestra play at a stadium before an important football match. There will also be a concert celebrating country and western music.

The concert's promoter, Harvey Goldsmith, who helped with Live Aid, said: "Culturally and financially the UK's music scene is a world leader."

"We have so much to be proud of, so what better way to mark millennium year than with the world's greatest live music party?"

It is expected that cities including Glasgow, Belfast, Cardiff and Manchester will hold the biggest events, while smaller concerts will be staged in provincial towns and villages. However, Wembley Stadium and the Royal Opera House will be closed for renovations.

The events will be funded by the licence fee, but the BBC said that it would be seen as a huge investment in British music. Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, said: "Music Live promises to be a real high point in the millennium year. The country has such a wealth of talent as performers and composers."



Ronan Keating, Irish lead singer with Boyzone, in his new, more statesmanlike guise. He may follow Dana's example

Pop star wants to be President



Keating: teen heart-throb

RONAN KEATING, the lead singer of Boyzone, is considering pursuing a new career as President of Ireland (Andrey Mages writes). The teenage pop heart-throb said: "It would be incredible. For me, it would be a rags-to-riches story about a fellow who grew up in working-class Bayside, was terrible at school but ended up being President of Ireland. It would be the pinnacle of my career."

Keating has been inspired by the success of Dana, the Eurovision Contest winner who came third in the last presidential contest. The boy-band singer feels he could do better and win a seven-year term. He may run next time, in 2004, or wait until the following election. "I

think I would do well because I can relate to people. I can very happily sit in the pub having a pint with Paddy or go abroad for the country without making a show of myself."

Keating, now more likely to be seen in suit and tie than jeans and baseball cap, desperately wants to be taken seriously. Aged only 21, he is a millionaire, married, and his wife is expecting their first child.

He insists that he is a serious person with a good voice, business acumen and a deep concern for people. He was recently appointed by Dublin to the committee organising Ireland's millennium celebrations. Having tasted politics, is now keen to go further.

Ernie Wise has heart surgery

By Alex O'Connell

ERNIE WISE was last night in a critical but stable condition after undergoing a triple heart bypass operation in a hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

He was semi-conscious and able to open his eyes and squeeze the hand of his wife, Doreen, as she waited by his bedside. Doctors at the Northridge Medical Centre, where he has been since early December, gave him a 50-50 chance of survival, Mrs Wise said.

The 73-year-old entertainer has been in hospital since he fell ill at his winter holiday home in Boca Raton, on Florida's east coast, only days after celebrating his birthday on November 27.

He suffered two heart attacks almost within a week and spent almost three weeks in intensive care. The couple celebrated their 46th wedding anniversary last Monday. Although he had been fed through tubes for two weeks, Wise ate a slice of cake and was thought to be recovering well.

His health has been a concern for some time, and he has suffered a series of strokes. Wise's 40-year partnership with Eric Morecambe ended with Morecambe's death from heart failure in 1984.

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Salt Lake City fears funds will dry up

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN WASHINGTON

FUNDRAISING efforts for the next Winter Olympics were in turmoil yesterday after the games' chief salesman was forced to admit that major sponsors were losing confidence in the Olympic "brand" because of the Salt Lake City corruption scandal. Presentations to other potential sponsors across America have been postponed.

BMW, the German car maker, was said to be one of two "top-tier" sponsors withholding confirmation of deals until after a report due today from the International Olympic Committee's headquarters in Lausanne. "We will know on Monday how fast we can really begin the healing process," John Krinsky, Salt Lake City's chief fundraiser said at the weekend.

Salt Lake City's Olympic fundraising ground to a halt two months ago when it became known that nearly \$500,000 in bribes and inducements had been paid to IOC members for their votes in 1995. Claims have since emerged of additional cash payments of up to \$100,000 to some Third World members easily impressed by lavish hospitality.

The immediate result is a \$244 million shortfall in private sector funds that the city was counting on, not least to help to build an entire new ski resort in the northern Wasatch mountains for the downhill skiing events. The long-term implications are graver still, with fears mounting that the lavish corporate backing that saved the Olympic movement 15 years ago could dry up if the IOC fails to "clean house" convincingly over the next few days.

Up to a dozen key sponsors have chosen to bide their time before committing millions to an event whose image may not now be rescued before it takes place. The worst fear of both Utah and IOC officials yesterday was of a counter-attack by implicated IOC members. It was far from clear yesterday that all those asked to explain their conduct would go quietly.

Salt Lake City still hopes to raise \$1.45 billion in all for the 2002 games, and to earn back nearly double that. But in the world of Olympic sponsorship, hitherto one of the most lucrative corporate casinos, all bets are now off.

THE first modern Olympic Games are always considered to have been held in Athens in 1896. In fact they were staged in Los Angeles in 1984.

After those Games, the first to make a profit, the wooing of members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) escalated to unsavory heights. Presents, lavish meals, first-class flights, luxury hotels, offers of prostitutes, and eventually bribes were used to secure their votes.

The desire to stage the Games has not always been exactly intense. After Baron de Coubertin revived the Ancient Games in Athens in 1896, they almost died for lack of interest in Paris in 1900 and St Louis in 1904. There were few entries and little public attention.

However, by the 1924 Games, later celebrated in *Chariots of Fire*, the votes of IOC members were being actively sought. Monique Berlioux, the former executive director of the IOC, wrote in 1976 that even in the 1920s, members were being offered first-class travel for themselves and their wives.

Until the 1970s the process remained unsophisticated — the IOC had no money and

few staff, and its members had to pay their own fares and hotel bills. When Lord Killanin was asked to succeed Avery Brundage as IOC president after 1972, he replied that he could not afford it unless the rules were changed.

As payment of committee members was introduced, the Games began to generate ever-increasing amounts of money. The possibility of corruption had arrived.

Staging the Olympics had always been a matter of prestige and Major Jean Drapeau of Montreal, which staged the 1976 Summer Olympics, reputedly recorded the taste in wine and sexual proclivities of IOC members.

The Olympic movement was transformed in the 1980s by the interest of the American television networks, which began competing for the rights for both winter and summer

Games. The rights for the 1980 winter Olympics in Lake Placid cost £10 million. For 2002 in Salt Lake City they will cost £300 million.

When Los Angeles made a profit of £140 million the floodgates opened. Only two cities vied for the 1984 summer Games. Two years later, 12 cities wanted to hold the 1992 win-

ies wanted to hold the 1992 winter Games. For the summer Games there was a shortlist of six, and Brisbane held a lunch

for IOC members that cost almost £1 million.

In 1986 the IOC limited gifts to members to a maximum of £100, so the lobbying had to be done in secret. It was complicated by the fact that the guidelines as to what and what was not permissible had never been clearly drawn up.

Members began to be offered donations to their favourite sporting charities or development projects in their countries. Some members have argued that these should be allowable.

For the 2000 Games, John Coates, who led the Sydney team, offered grants to the Kenyan and Ugandan committees because he feared the votes were "slipping away". Sydney beat Beijing by two votes.

The Princess Royal, Dame Mary Glen-Haig and Craig Reddie have scrupulously represented Britain over the last 15 years. The Princess is celebrated for returning gifts from bidding cities without thanks.

Mr Reddie, chairman of the British Olympic Association, said yesterday that when he voted for the 2002 winter Games, won by Salt Lake City, and the 2004 summer Games, no one tried to secure his vote. He said: "In fact, I cannot even

He said: "In fact, I cannot even remember someone directly saying to me, 'We would like you to bid for us'."

Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, at Lausanne yesterday.

Sydney organisers worry that sponsors may be put off

FROM DAVID WATTS
IN BRISBANE

THE Olympic bribery scandal sent shivers through Sydney games organisers already worried about their financial viability. With sponsors worried about the tarnishing of the Olympics, there are serious concerns that the \$A230 million (about £90 million) in sponsorship that Sydney still needs to raise will not be forthcoming.

Among the sponsors whose support could melt away are such

firms as Coca-Cola, Eastman Kodak, Xerox, McDonald's and Visa. At the weekend, the Australian International Olympic Committee member, Kevan Gosper, gave warning that the controversial assistance offered to African delegates went "beyond goodwill" and could cost the city the 2000 games. However, last night he said that he had no reason to believe that the sweeteners offered in Uganda and Kenya constituted bribery.

The Australian Olympic Committee president, John Coates, had

started the flurry of concern over the Sydney games by revealing that the night before the vote to decide the venue for the 2000 games he had offered two African officials \$A50,000 each to develop sport in their countries if the Sydney bid was successful.

Sydney beat its chief rival, Beijing, in the vote by 45-43 to win the games. Mr Coates maintains that the offer was not a bribe but agrees that the inducement may well have been the turning-point. One of the men to whom he offered the mon-

ey, Charles Mukora, of Kenya, has already been identified as being sufficiently corrupt to warrant expulsion from the International Olympic Committee. The other man was Major-General Francis Nwangweso of Uganda.

Even before the present furore, there were concerns over the loss that Sydney might suffer from the games when the federal Government refused to grant tax exempt status to many of the developments relating to their staging.

future of the games have been heightened by calls from the rival city Manchester that they be re-sited. Graham Stringer, a former leader of Manchester City Council and now an MP for the city, said that the IOC should "take a very serious look at whether the games can be moved from Sydney".

Mr Coates said there was no chance of Sydney losing the games though the IOC could be asked to vote to re-affirm the winners of the Summer 2000 Games, the Salt Lake Winter 2002 Games and the

Athens Summer Games of 2004. He said he believed that Sydney could never have won the games without offering extras but he did not know whether his inducements to the two African delegates had swung it in Sydney's favour. "I'll die not knowing if those two voted for us, or if they tell me they voted for us, whether they are truthful or not—I won't know that." He said it was not officially sanctioned bribery but assistance to athletes and coaches.

not founder the British athletes are assured plenty of goodies when they stay on the Queensland Gold Coast in the lead-up to the Olympics. They are being offered free golf games, other tourist attractions, VIP transport and use of sporting facilities worth hundreds of thousands of dollars by the local authority. The Gold Coast mayor said the benefits to the area would far outweigh the costs. It was hoped that \$A5-10 million will be generated by the team's presence and through increased tourism.

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Bloody reality of Ulster beatings

Martin Fletcher speaks to an ambulanceman who has treated many of the victims

AFTER 21 years as an ambulanceman in northwest Belfast, Laurence Robertson has probably attended more victims of "punishment beatings" and kneecappings than anyone else in Northern Ireland.

He has been called out hundreds of times from the Ardoyne ambulance station, which is between the loyalist Shankill and republican Ardoyne areas of the city, to treat those attacked on waste ground or in back alleys by paramilitary thugs who use naked terror to control their housing estates. The stories you hear in the back of an ambulance are unbelievable," Mr Robertson told *The Times*.

He talked in chilling detail about a barbaric practice so common in Northern Ireland that most mutilation attacks warrant only a couple of paragraphs in the local press. "You never get used to it. You can't. Every single call is an individual human

being. It's not just another statistic," he said. "I've had my fill of them."

The paramilitaries often summon the ambulances and wait till they hear the sirens before kneecapping their victims. That way the victims do not die if the bullets hit an artery. On one occasion when Mr Robertson's ambulance was called to a shooting off the Antrim Road, "as we came into the street a man approached with a mask and his hand in his breast-pocket and said: 'Just drive around the block.' We heard the bang. When we came back there was this guy lying in the road."

On another occasion his ambulance was summoned to a punishment beating near the Ballymurphy estate. "We pulled into a dark street at about 4am. Three cars pulled up next to the ambulance. Some guys

jumped out with masks and hurling sticks and went into the house. The hall light went on. We heard bangs and thumps and screams. The guys jumped in the cars and sped off. A girlfriend came out screaming and we went in."

The victims may be summoned to be kneecapped and duly present themselves because the alternative is exile — or worse. "They are told: 'We want you here 9.00 tomorrow night. We're only going to do one leg. If you don't show up we will get you tomorrow or next week but we will get you.' They go because they live in the community, have lived there all their lives and their families live there."

Some kneecappings lead to permanent disablement or death but most of the victims are shot through the

calf or thigh and suffer little long-term damage. Mr Robertson, 42, says: "If someone came up and said you can have five men with sticks or a gun I would say: shoot me. I would take my chance. Some of these beatings are absolutely horrific."

In "crudifications" the victim is tied to railings, upside down and spread-eagled, and beaten mercilessly. Mr Robertson has seen men with multiple fractures to their legs and arms requiring plates, pins and screws.

There have been thousands of mutilation attacks during the Troubles. The Belfast human rights group Families Against Intimidation and Terror has recorded 1,076 by loyalist and republican paramilitaries since 1993. Many more go unreported.

Locals call the paramilitaries the "hairy men" or "the circuit judge",

as in "the circuit judge has been out again tonight", said Mr Robertson, and the attacks have been tolerated by the communities involved. They usually occur in areas where the police have lost control and the victims are generally reckoned to have been drug dealers, joyriders or petty thieves who deserved to be punished.

That may be starting to change, thanks to recent cases where the victims were patently innocent and they or their relatives dared to speak out. Increasingly the paramilitaries are seen not as a policing force but groups seeking power and money.

Last April an IRA gang looking for a child molester broke into the wrong flat and shot an elderly man through both knees and ankles. Three months later Andrew Kearney, 33, bled to death in a block of

flats after his kneecappers ripped out the telephone and jammed the lift doors. He had dared stand up to the IRA's North Belfast commander.

Last week *The Times* reported the case of Andrew Peden, a Belfast father who had both legs amputated after being kneecapped by the Ulster Volunteer Force for giving a lift to a friend from a rival loyalist group. "You never approved of [these attacks] but you felt the victims had done something," said his wife, who has now utterly changed her opinion. "They are judge, jury and executioner," Mr Peden said.

"Nobody deserves to be shot or beaten to a pulp by a mob of masked men," Mr Robertson said. "The law is there to deal with joyriders or breaking into old people's houses and taking £10. Some are picked out by word of mouth and totally innocent. Some are 16, 17 or 18-year-olds. Some are absolutely tragic."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Boy aged three saves brother

A three-year-old boy with suspected autism saved his brother's life. William and Edward Miles were playing in their garden when 20-month-old Edward fell into a 4ft-deep pond.

William, who has difficulty speaking, ran indoors to their mother, Kate. She thought that he wanted to play but by shouting and tugging her clothes he alerted her to Edward's plight. "He was lifeless and limp when I got him out but then he opened his mouth to breathe," said Mrs Miles, 30, of Ipswich. The boy was treated in hospital for a night.

Wight tax plan

The Isle of Wight is to consider charging tourists a landing tax of 50p a vehicle to help to reduce the £2 million budget deficit that the council expects next year. More than one million people visit the island every year.

Cocaine seizure

Customs officers seized 22kg of cocaine, believed to be worth up to £25 million, at Gatwick Airport. Charles McLeod, 31, and Denise Lambert, 30, are to appear before Croydon magistrates today charged with importing drugs.

Whisky galore

A pub landlord on the island of Mull claims to have found the oldest bottle of malt whisky in existence. Robert MacLeod, 47, discovered the bottle of 1869 Old Tobermory at the back of his family run bar. He is not planning to sell.

Hot headed

Firefighters called by a concerned resident to a fire on the flat roof of a house in Brighton, East Sussex, found that it was a fire-eater practising his art. A brigade spokesman said: "We've never come across anything quite like that."

Buried ambition

Geoff Smith, 37, who set a record by living underground for 147 days, emerged from the garden of the Railway Inn in Mansfield, Nottinghamshire, and said: "I'll not be buried again until I'm carried away in my real coffin."

Wedding joy for Omagh bomb victim

By Melissa Kitta

A VICTIM of the Omagh bomb is to marry the English boyfriend that she had met only once before he rushed to her bedside as she lay badly injured.

Sandy Smith, 23, and Mark Blackwell had kept in touch by phone after meeting on holiday. After hearing she had been injured in the bombing on August 15 last year, Mr Blackwell, 31, from Lancaster, travelled to Ireland and kept a bedside vigil in the intensive care unit at the Erne Hospital in Co Tyrone.

It was there that he proposed on bended knee. They plan to marry on June 25, exactly a year after they met in Devon. "I'd never been to Northern Ireland but I just had to get to Sandy," Mr Blackwell said.

"I grabbed one change of clothes and my friends lent me the money. I only intended staying for two weeks. But I realised I loved Sandy so much that I couldn't leave her."

Miss Smith, who suffered severe shrapnel injuries and whose left leg is paralysed from the knee, said that she

hoped their story would give hope to other victims. "It shows that love can conquer evil and that, with the courage and the will to live, you can have a new future. Mark has been my strength, he has encouraged me throughout to be positive and count my blessings."

Miss Smith's best friend, Julia Hughes, 21, was one of the 29 people killed in the Real IRA bombing. They were standing just 10ft from where the bomb went off.

Counsellors are helping her come to terms with the mental trauma. "I am not the person I was before August last year," she said. "I can't be my old self. I am always depending on other people to do things for me that I should be able to do for myself."

"It's very hard to get used to. I used to love the gym, now I can barely walk. But you have to accept it has happened and life won't ever be the same again."

"I've cried bucketfuls every single day. I'm still grieving for Julie. But you have to accept it is not the end of everything."/PA



Sandy Smith and her fiancé, Mark Blackwell: the couple had met only once, on holiday, before Miss Smith was injured in the bombing

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Chance find ends centuries of separation

THE two halves of an important 13th-century diptych have been reunited after centuries, thanks to a chance discovery. The owners of the separate pieces, which depict Christ and the Madonna, had no idea that they had come from a diptych. But the link was discovered when the owner of the left wing sent photographs to an art expert.

Joanna Cannon carried the photographs around in her bag for more than a month because they intrigued her. One day, while working on something else, she stumbled across a photograph of the right wing in a book.

"I realised this must be the other half. Then, because I had a photograph of the back of the panel and a description of the other back, I was able to

A rare diptych is back in one piece after an expert finds the missing link, reports Darya Alberge

match them up. I could see three hinge marks that must match up. And I had the measurements. They fitted. I realised they went together." Dr Cannon, a lecturer in the history of art at the Courtauld Institute in London, said.

The link was confirmed by the tooled decoration, which is unusually dense. "Seeing the two together is incredibly exciting. They obviously belong, and look wonderful together."

The National Gallery persuaded the owners to part with them, allowing them to be joined together again in a £480,000 purchase.

Dillian Gordon, the gallery's early Italian curator, said: "This is a thrilling discovery." The right wing of the diptych depicts Christ as 'The Man of Sorrows' after his removal from the cross. Ms Gordon said that it had "long been recognised as being one of the earliest surviving examples of this image in Italian painting. It is therefore an important ex-

ample of a key image in the history of Western art." The previously unknown left wing shows the Virgin and Child.

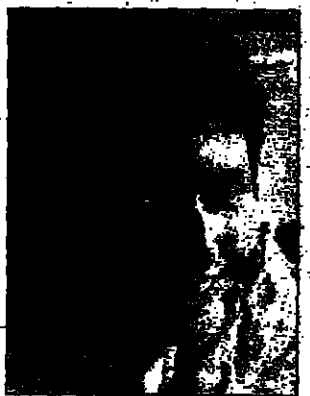
The diptych, which goes on display today, is the work of an unknown master from Umbria and has been dated to about 1260. The Man of Sorrows half was in the Société private collection in Brussels. The owner of the Virgin and Child half was simply curious when he wrote to the Courtauld, and had not considered selling it.

But both owners could see the appeal of it being linked up," said Dr Cannon, whose study of the painting will be published in next month's *Burlington Magazine*.

Dr Gordon added: "We have very few 13th-century paintings. The diptych offered a rare opportunity to acquire a painting of this date of high quality and in such good condition."



The similarities of the two panels were obvious from the front, and hinge marks on the back confirmed that they had once been joined



Cannon carried photos in her bag for a month

Air photos may save dream home

By Tim Jones

A COUPLE are hoping that RAF aerial photographs can help them to fight a council order to demolish half of their £200,000 country cottage.

John and Julie Mitchell have been ordered to knock down an extension, which includes stables, a double garage and a games room, that was already built on to the home they bought from an estate agent last summer.

They have been told by East Hampshire District Council that it had been in dispute with the former owner of the property in Kingsley, near Bordon, Hampshire, over the extension.

Their lawyer says that he has now discovered that the cottage was built on land formerly belonging to the Minis-

try of Defence and aerial photographs showed the extension was put up before the four year cut-off point at which a council could serve an enforcement notice.

Peter Eggleston, the council's district enforcement officer, said: "Although we sympathise with the Mitchells, they have inherited a house with an existing planning dispute and there is unfortunately nothing we can do."

"To keep the extension the Mitchells will have to prove it was completed when they say it was."

Mrs Mitchell said: "The whole thing has been horrendous. All we want to do is keep the house as it is. We bought it because it had everything we wanted."



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We don't need Lib Dems, says Prescott

Remarks highlight existing tensions between Labour MPs, reports Jill Sherman

JOHN PRESCOTT dismissed the need for further links between Labour and the Liberal Democrats yesterday, saying that the party did not need help from anyone else to achieve its manifesto commitments. His comments came as Paddy Ashdown, the outgoing Liberal Democrat leader, predicted that his party would have ministers in a Labour government after the next election and that his successor would maintain co-operation with the Labour Party.

A BBC poll of 196 Liberal Democrat chairmen appeared to endorse that view, with 50 per cent supporting the existing arrangements, 31 per cent wanting further ties and 14 per cent against links.

But Mr Prescott's remarks will fuel existing tensions among Labour MPs about whether the co-operation between the two parties should

be extended, and underlines his rift with the Prime Minister over the issue. At a meeting with Tony Blair last week several senior backbenchers expressed their concern about further collaboration with the Liberal Democrats and Mr Blair was said to have assured them that no new steps would be taken without consulting the party.

Downing Street has since denied that that was ever said and yesterday officials confirmed that Jack Cunningham, the Cabinet enforcer, and Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat deputy leader, would be meeting this week to discuss areas of further co-operation. A Downing Street spokesman refused to be drawn on the detail but it has been suggested that welfare — particularly pensions

— could be one area of common ground. "There will be an extension of co-operation but we haven't said in what areas," the spokesman said.

Mr Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, yesterday made a number of disparaging remarks about the Liberal Democrats, claiming there was no need for "anybody else" to help Labour to create a better Britain. He said that Labour had a majority of 170 and could carry out its pledges on its own and that he had no interest in who succeeded Mr Ashdown.

Mr Prescott also dismissed hopes expressed by Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, a Liberal Democrat peer, that the two parties would unite to dominate the next century. "Roy Jenkins has gone through more political parties

than I've had dinners," he said jokingly. But Mr Ashdown used an interview with BBC's *Breakfast* with Frost to suggest much closer links between the two parties. "The Liberal Democrats, over the past year, have moved from a party of protest to a party of power," he said.

"The final threshold that takes the Liberal Democrat party into government I think we now leave to my successor. Probably after the next election the Liberal Democrats will move into government."

Mr Ashdown said that his party would, under its new leader, carry on working with Labour to introduce those reforms and modernisations which our country can benefit from. He insisted that the links would continue because the Prime

Minister was determined to keep them and they were in the interests of both parties.

"We have been working on this, Mr Blair and I, for four or five years," Mr Ashdown said, likening the initial dialogue to a hesitant crossing across a rope bridge.

"That rope bridge has now been replaced by a multi-lane highway," he said, with several ministers taking part in cross-party talks with Liberal Democrats. He insisted that 80 per cent of party members supported the links with Labour.

Mr Ashdown also let slip that he was expecting his successor to be a Scot. Asked by Sir David Frost about who Rory Bremner would now have to impersonate, Mr Ashdown said they would have a

"Scotch" accent. The three potential candidates known to be considering standing who would fit that bill are Charles Kennedy, Menzies Campbell and Malcolm Bruce. Nick Harvey, the MP for North Devon, who is said by some quarters to be favoured by the leader, is not a Scot.

Mr Harvey, whose campaign is the most organised, suffered a setback when the BBC poll of chairmen put him in fourth position. Of the 57 who wished to comment, 36 favoured Charles Kennedy, 22 Menzies Campbell, 17 Simon Hughes and only four Mr Harvey. Mr Harvey's supporters said their man needed to develop his public profile and that as campaigns manager he would have a good chance to do so in the coming months.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21
Suzanne Hubbard



Robinson: row ended career in government

Robinson expected to quit at next election

By Roland Watson
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

FRIENDS of Geoffrey Robinson, the former Paymaster General, expect him to bow out of politics at the next election.

Mr Robinson, who endured a turbulent 20 months in government, is to meet his constituency party for the first time this week since his resignation at Christmas.

The millionaire businessman has been non-committal about his future and is expected to deflect questions about whether he intends to stand for his Coventry North West seat again.

Local party members believe it is merely a matter of time before he announces he is standing down. Mr Robinson, 60, will have held the seat for 25 years by the time of the next election.

He came to political prominence only recently as patron and supporter of Gordon Brown, the Chancellor. His decision to quit the Treasury after enduring relentless scrutiny of his business past, and links to the late tycoon Robert Maxwell, has ensured an end to his career in government.

With more than two years to the likely date of the next election, local party chiefs do not expect such an early declaration of his intent. Support for Mr Robinson remains high within his constituency.

Bill Thomson, chairman of Labour's Coventry North West constituency party, said the £373,000 loan to Peter Mandelson was not an issue locally. He reflected, however, local uncertainty about Mr Robinson's future. He said: "As far as we are concerned he's still our MP. But people are entitled to change their mind."

Disco-dance MP faces big contest with flare

By Mark Inglefield, Political Reporter

SIMON HUGHES will not say if he will run in the Liberal Democrat leadership contest, but this has not stopped the MP from considering two important points: will his passion for groovy nightclubs or his preferred mode of transport, a canary-yellow London taxi, wreck his chances?

"It may be that if I became party leader I would have to give up the taxi," he concedes. And the clubs? Mr Hughes, 47, is a devotee of Starsky and Hutch, a 1970s retro hangout in South London which encourages its clientele to don flared trousers. "A little innocent club music does nobody any harm," he says. "But it's probably regarded as more appropriate for the twenty- and thirtysomethings than the fortysomethings."

Mr Hughes, MP for Southwark and Bermondsey, made these observations in Paris at the weekend, where he addressed 3,000 sixth-formers on Britain's role in Europe. Al-

though he is keen to stick to the line agreed by all the would-be candidates — not to come out fighting until Mr Ashdown steps down in the summer — he is aware that a phoney war will ensue for the next six months.

"Everyone will be watching if we put in a good performance in the Commons or on television, and every time we do they'll say, 'We know why they're doing that.'"

At the moment, all is calm. The five hopefuls have met and agreed that the leadership contest should be a gentlemanly affair. "We can only try and I hope that it will be," Mr Hughes says. "The next step would be to reach an agreement that none of us would say anything negative about anybody else. That would be an extremely good breakthrough."

It looks set to be a tough battle. According to the poll of the party's local chairmen, Mr Hughes is in third place, be-



Simon Hughes with sixth-formers at the "Your Future in Europe" conference in Paris. He hopes that the leadership contest will be gentlemanly

hind Charles Kennedy and Menzies Campbell. The other contenders are Nick Harvey and Malcolm Bruce. The crucial issue will be whether Mr Ashdown's collaboration policy with Labour should be extended, or drawn back. Mr Hughes belongs to the draw-

back wing of the party. "Most of the collaboration so far has been to implement what we agreed before the last election," he says. "Like the others, I'm going to respect the line between what I may say in June or July if I was to stand, and the view I have

now about what we're doing." Mr Hughes entered Parliament in 1983, beating Labour's candidate, Peter Tatchell, the homosexual rights campaigner, in a by-election. He is currently the party spokesman on health and urban policy. Before becoming an MP he was an employment barrister, sometimes encountering another lawyer, Tony Blair. "We used to have the occasional drink, but we weren't great friends," he says.

He is a helpful person, an attribute he displayed as we travelled back to London on Eurostar. He promised a horde of rowdy photocopy salesman from Kent (who were celebrating a good month) that he would look into how they could pitch for a contract at the House of Com-

mons. He also said that he would assist a waiter with a degree in journalism to get a job. "You can make connections for people if you're an MP," he said.

Mr Hughes commends Paddy Ashdown as a leader, but does not want his endorsement as a preferred candidate. "I can't imagine the party would take kindly to it and I can't imagine it would be very helpful to any person who featured in that."

One of the reasons why Mr Hughes is careful about discussing the leadership job is that he is the party's most likely candidate for the mayoralty of London. "In a way, nobody would be wise to make a decision about whether they want to be a candidate now because six months down the

track goodness knows what the political landscape will look like."

Of the five likely candidates, only one, Mr Campbell, is married. "Leaders over the years have been married and unmarried. I don't think it's a central issue," Mr Hughes says.

He does not mind that his life would be placed under scrutiny as leader, which he concedes can be a "nightmare" job. "You have to go to the party saying, 'Look, I don't think there are any skeletons in the cupboard that would be a problem for the party.'"

Could Starsky and Hutch prove an embarrassment? "All I can say is that there are people considerably older than me there. And I don't go on my own. That would be a very sad state of affairs."

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Hurd aide picked to advise Blair

A Tory right-hand man is moving to No 10, writes Valerie Elliott

A DIPLOMAT who was Douglas Hurd's closest confidant during his period as Foreign Secretary is to become Tony Blair's foreign affairs adviser. John Sawers, 43, the political counsellor at the Washington Embassy, met Mr Blair briefly in November. He joins the Downing Street 15-hour-a-day treadmill next month when John Holmes, the official described as Mr Blair's "security blanket", becomes Ambassador to Lisbon.

Mr Sawers will be the FO's eyes and ears inside No 10. He has been closely involved in the Iraq conflict and while working for Douglas Hurd was in a group developing Northern Ireland policy for John Major. He will not, however, assume Mr Holmes's role as the Prime Minister's principal private secretary. That will be taken by Jeremy Heywood, who will also be "sherpa" for the Prime Minister at the G8 economic summit.

It is understood that Mr Blair chose Mr Sawers not just for his intellect and reputation for hard work but because he would fit in with the private office team, headed by Jonathan Powell. Mr Powell and Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's spokesman, both interviewed Mr Sawers.

Mr Sawers is probably one of the most "classless" of FO staff. One former colleague said: "When you meet him,

you would never think that he was from the Foreign Office. His rise is purely meritocratic and he has not relied on any old boy network." The son of a Rolls-Royce engineer, Mr Sawers went to grammar school in Bath and studied physics and philosophy at Nottingham University. He stayed on for a fourth year to be secretary of the student union but was not elected on a party political ticket.

According to another diplomat, Mr Sawers is unfappable but can also be "heretical" in his policy ideas — a feature particularly appreciated by Lord Hurd of Westwell. They got on so well that they used to go for early morning swims together when attending meetings abroad.

Mr Sawers was particularly involved in the intense negotiation of the Maastricht treaty and getting the Bill through Parliament. He also had a key role on policy in Bosnia, where the Government tried to achieve a balance between alleviating conflict and ensuring humanitarian relief.

Like Mr Blair, Mr Sawers is a strong family man. His wife, Shelley, is an actress-turned teacher, and they have two sons and a daughter, Oliver, 15, Sam, 13, and Corinne, 11.

He was a member of the Labour Party in the 1970s and was an early member of the SDP, but has not been involved in party politics since.

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

Navy women rule the waves off Freetown

FROM SAM KILEY
ON HMS NORFOLK

DRYING panties have replaced pin-ups in HMS Norfolk's cabins. The swearing of sailors is also part of a vanished past. For the ship carrying the battle honours for the sinking of the *Bismarck* and now patrolling the coast of Sierra Leone is run by a corps of women officers in their twenties backed by others manning the weapons and controlling the ship's engines.

The *Norfolk*, a 4,000-tonne frigate armed with a 4.5-in gun, and a bewildering array of missiles, has been transformed by the arrival of the women officers and ratings, among the first allowed to go to sea since the Royal Navy changed centuries of tradition seven years ago.

"When I joined and went to



Dartmouth 12 years ago we were taught things like what sort of make-up to wear and were ordered not to run in uniform because it was undignified," said the senior woman on board, Lieutenant-Commander Allison Towler, 34.

Now the officer who is in charge of boarding other vessels during searches for smuggled arms, sanctions-busting in Iraqi waters or drugs in the

Caribbean wears lipstick, earrings and a bob. Lieutenant Karen Hibberd, 24, who was among the first ten women to go to sea as a Royal Navy officer, commands the boarding team who "get fully gurned up" and abseil down ropes from a Lynx helicopter hovering 30ft above hostile vessels.

Looking towards Freetown across waters polluted by the bodies of the victims of weeks of fighting and rebel atrocities which were continuing in the capital yesterday, Lieutenant Hibberd spotted a body bleached white by days in the sea. "We had a leg go by this morning," she said.

All three of the ship's watch officers, including Lieutenant Hibberd, who are responsible for the day-to-day command of the bridge, are trained to use everything from a pistol to the Sea Wolf anti-missile defence



Royal Navy lieutenants Karen Hibberd, right, and Nicola Tregassie on the bridge of HMS Norfolk on patrol off the coast of Sierra Leone

es. Until 1991 they would have been banned from wearing trousers and confined to desk jobs ashore.

"There would have been no point joining up then. The whole point of being in the

Navy is to be at sea, not sitting at a desk doing the same thing as a civilian but earning half as much," said Lieutenant Andrea McEwan. "Now we are properly trained along with everybody else. There is no

part of a sailor's job that is closed to us."

"The women on board have had a civilising influence. The *Norfolk* has a squeaky clean record. Even ashore there are very seldom arrests for drunk-

ness or violent behaviour," Lieutenant Hibberd said.

Intimacy between the 163 men and the 22 women on the *Norfolk* is barred by a rule which forbids anything more than a handshake and a pat

on the back. "That's on shore too," said Lt-Comdr Towler.

Yesterday the *Norfolk* surgeon, Lieutenant Emma Knight, 26, arrived in Freetown escorted by Royal Marines to set up a clinic.

Scientists 'could create artificial life in ten years'

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS believe it might be possible within a decade to create artificial life, the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Anaheim, California, was told yesterday.

A simple organism could be created piece by piece, assembling the genes in the right order from knowledge gained by analysing the simplest of free-living organisms. The result would be a stripped-down and entirely man-made version of a parasite commonly found in the human body.

This Frankenstein possibility was raised by Dr Craig Venter, one of the world's foremost experts in gene sequencing. He said he believed the experiment was possible, but that he

hoped to create a simple organism, believes that about 300 genes is the least possible. He reached this conclusion from comparisons of the complete sequences of two human parasites, *Mycoplasma genitalium* and *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*.

The simpler of these is *genitalium*, which is found in the human genital tract but which is not known to cause any disease. It has 470 genes, about 200 less than *pneumoniae*, which is found in the respiratory tract and can cause pneumonia.

In a series of experiments in which genes are "knocked out" and the effect on the organism observed, Dr Venter and his colleagues are seeking to identify how many genes are needed for an organism of this sort to keep itself alive and functioning, and what they are. Once this is known, it might be possible to assemble the entire genome from the four basic chemicals, put together in the right order to make up the backbone of the man-made organism's DNA.

To create an organism, it would also be necessary to enclose the genes in a cell, either by using a cell emptied of its own DNA, or by creating an artificial cell by wrapping lipids (fats) around the man-made DNA to form a simple cell membrane. Dr Venter said he would not attempt it unless, after careful consideration, a committee of experts agreed that the benefits of creating life exceeded the risks.

He has put the idea to a high-level group of scientists, ethicists and churchmen at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "So far the group hasn't come up with any religious objections," he said. "It would be extremely difficult, and it is not clear that it is do-able, but I think public discussion of the issue is worthwhile in any case. It gets down to the fundamental definitions of what life is."

He said that the danger with the technology is that it might be misused to create biological weapons, but the positive side is potentially greater.

Stinging cure

A giant scorpion could provide a new way to treat a brain tumour (Nigel Hawkes writes). The toxin in the scorpion's venom, designed to paralyse the creature's prey, is able to seek out certain brain cells that have turned cancerous, Dr Harold Sontzheim, of the University of Alabama, said. He has tested venom from an Israeli scorpion in test tubes and on mice.

would not go ahead until full consideration had been given to the ethical implications.

Dr Venter is well known in the genetic community for developing a rapid system for discovering the sequences of the four basic letters in the genetic alphabet that make up the genes. The ultimate aim is to produce a full sequence of all 80,000 human genes, but 20 simpler organisms have already been sequenced, including a number of parasites and bacteria, such as those responsible for causing TB and stomach ulcers.

The idea of creating life comes from experiments designed to identify the smallest number of genes that any free-living creature needs to survive. Dr Venter, of Celera Ge-

Garden of Eden 'was in Ethiopia'

GENETIC studies suggest that the Garden of Eden was in Ethiopia or Somalia, the American Association for the Advancement of Science has been told (Nigel Hawkes writes).

A team led by Dr Sarah Tishkoff of Pennsylvania University looked at DNA samples from 18 African populations and 45 populations from elsewhere in the world. They found much greater diversity in African populations, which is consistent with mankind in Africa having evolved for a longer period — and thus having started earlier — than populations elsewhere.

A closer look at the data suggests that groups that left Africa and populated the rest of the world came from Ethiopia and Somalia.

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Le Pen fury as his party splits

FROM BEN MACINTYRE
IN PARIS

THE French National Front ruptured yesterday into bitterly antagonistic halves, accompanied by a level of acrimony rare even for Europe's largest extreme right-wing party.

Bruno Mégret, the former deputy head of the party who is fighting to oust its veteran leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen, was elected president of the breakaway National Front-National Movement (Mouvement National) at an extraordinary congress in the southern far-right stronghold of Marnage, completing a breach open for six weeks and simmering for years.

About 17,000 of the party's 40,000 members signed petitions in favour of holding the congress, which was boycotted by M Le Pen and which he dismissed as an assembly of "Lilliputians", a reference to M Mégret's diminutive stature.

M Mégret's challenge to M Le Pen has left both sides straining their vocabularies in search of the most offensive



Mégret hails launch of his new far-right group

insults. The Mégretists condemned M Le Pen's backers as parasites and compared their 70-year-old chief to a cult leader drunk with power. To symbolise what they insist is M Le Pen's irrelevance, they appointed him to the mocking title of "honorary president" of the National Front-National Movement in recognition of his "historic" role.

M Le Pen, a dab hand at trading unpleasant remarks, came out marginally ahead in the vituperation stakes, describing M Mégret as a "psychopath", "paranoid" and "fraud", surrounded by "a tiny clan of conspirators".

"There is only one National Front," he thundered. "And that is the one I created nearly 30 years ago."

The first major test of the balance of power between the rival groups will come with the European elections in June, when the "Lepenist" and "Mégretist" parties will mount rival campaigns and slates of candidates. In the meantime, there is likely to be a vicious legal fight over the National Front's assets, including the party name, insignia, bank accounts and property.

The split within the xenophobic anti-immigrant party is over practical political strategy and personality differences rather than ideology. Where M Le Pen is determined to avoid diluting his extremism (and personal cachet) by alliances with more mainstream



A protester in Marnage mocks the far-right National Front for "losing its head"

right-wing groups, the younger man believes that the National Front's route to power is through strategic and pragmatic electoral deals.

M Mégret, 48, enjoys support among the younger and

richer members, and just under half the membership has given him its backing. But polls show that M Le Pen retains the loyalty of the majority of National Front voters.

The split has divided the party

at every level, including the domestic. M Le Pen's daughter, Marie-Caroline, has sided with the Mégretists along with her husband, taking up a leadership role in the party seeking to remove her father.

A funeral in Berlin lays rogues to rest

INSIDE GERMANY



BY ROGER BOYES

Tommy Turnschuh, wearing his distinctive trainers below a natty charcoal suit, threw some banknotes on Franky's coffin and then the other mourners filed past the open grave tossing in roses, cuddly toys and even a packet of condoms.

Berlin's wide-boy milieu — boxers with cauliflower ears, nightclub bosses, a racing driver, a champagne salesman, some expensively dressed policemen and many chemically blonde women young enough to have been Franky's mistresses — was saying farewell not only to a big, glossy, Runyonesque character but to its own precarious place in the city's social pecking order.

Franky, the Curry Wurst King, was 58 when he died. A cigarette ignited the large round bed in his Ku'damm flat, the flames spread to the curtains and left him no chance. We had met in the early 1980s while I was on a trip out of martial-law Poland to buy light bulbs and lavatory paper. Franky Lehmann had just sold seven sausage stands and knew more than most people about how Turkish fast-food kiosks and doner kebabs were displacing Wurst as the German national dish.

It seemed like a good story. He could not stand the idea of eating Wurst socially and he was not sure that he wanted to be seen in public with a journalist, and so we snacked on the top floor of the Harrods-like KadeWe department store, a sky-lit hell that plays piped birdsong and serves cold eggs.

Nothing of substance emerged. Franky was obviously disappointed that I was a man — he had some how got the impression that Roger was a woman's name — and, unless I too had grasped the wrong end of the stick, he appeared to be offering me money not to write this rather peripheral story.

Such occasions are rather rare in a foreign correspondent's career (even for those of us who have served in Rome and Moscow) and the moment slipped away. Words were written, copy was cut, life moved on.

For Franky, too. He had made the curry wurst — sausage sliced up and smothered with yellow sauce — socially attractive. At the far end of the Ku'damm, Franky's Curry Station dished the meat to Frank Sinatra, Telly Savalas and Brigitte Nielsen.

But Franky realised there was more to life than push-

ing pork and he bought into the slot-machine parlour business. This business placed him in tricky company. The big-time owner of various Hamburg brothels became a friend (his absence from the funeral last week was bitterly noted by Tommy Turnschuh), so did Rolf Eden, the closest West Berlin ever had to a playboy.

West Berliners used to like these rags to riches stories and the city adored lovable rogues (who were in truth merely bullies with style) and that may explain why over 500 turned up at the Heerstrasse cemetery. Although I'm no fan of funerals, I went too, squeezing past the Jaguars and Corvettes. Why was the funeral important? Because one of the defining elements of Berlin — its home-grown mobsters, fences and fixers — has given way to imported organised crime.

Russians are bringing huge sums into the city. Romanians and Bulgarians supply the brothels. Chechens, Kosovans and Kurds transfer fighting skills to drug turf wars. Some neighbourhoods are no-go areas for the police. A patrol was beaten up the other night for trying to stop a brawl in the Neukölln district. Fifty Turks set upon it shouting: "These are our streets."

This is not Franky's world, full of complex criminal protocol. His city has changed; it is less of a club. The police are not as bent as 20 years ago and are better educated, yet the crime rate is far, far worse.

The old back-scratching deals with Allied quarter-

masters are a thing of the past. A competitive city press keeps politicians on a short leash. The criminal heart of Berlin has shifted eastwards. Berliners still do not want to accept the metamorphosis of their city.

As usual, they prefer to cling on to a myth and treat Franky as the last, perhaps the very last, of the once-and-future capital's subterranean heroes.

Bonn rejects waste compensation call

Bonn: Gerhard Schröder, the Chancellor, said yesterday that Germany would reject compensation demands from France or Britain over its decision to cancel nuclear waste treatment contracts worth billions of pounds.

Herr Schröder said in a television interview that Germany was making a sovereign decision to eliminate nuclear energy and that there was no legal foundation for demands from France and Britain over their loss of business processing German waste.

"Every government has that right," he added. "We want to get out of nuclear energy."

Bonn intends to close its 19 nuclear power plants and ban the export of nuclear waste for reprocessing. Germany has no waste-reprocessing centres.

The row has soured relations between Germany and its main European Union partners at a time when Bonn holds the EU presidency.

France and Britain have told Germany it would be breaking legal agreements if it tears up the contracts. The French company Cogema stands to lose £3.2 billion and British Nuclear Fuels would lose £1.2 billion. (Reuters)

Leading article, page 21

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THE TIMES MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

Serbs release guerrillas in hostage swap

FROM TOM WALKER IN NEVOJANE

NINE ethnic Albanian separatists were freed by the Serbian authorities over the weekend in a hostage swap that is likely to encourage radicals in the Belgrade Government because it enhances the bargaining powers of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

William Walker, the senior international mediator in the province, while welcoming the releases as a confidence-building measure, issued a warning against a spate of tit-for-tat kidnappings. He said members of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe mission in Kosovo witnessed the releases.

The KLA freed five elderly Serbs it seized on Thursday almost simultaneously as the Albanians were set free on Saturday afternoon.

The release of the nine Albanians was conducted in secret with the Yugoslav Government denying any such deal. Aides of Mr Walker refused to be drawn on how separatist insurgents, who would normally face a 20-year jail term, are now at liberty. The OSCE downplayed any link between the events.



Walker: want an end to kidnappings



At least two of the released prisoners planned to return to the fighting as soon as possible. "This is not a crime, this is fighting for the freedom of our country," said Azem Suma, 26.

The nine, among whom was a 17-year-old girl, were part of a group of KLA guerrillas who attempted to cross the border from Albania near the British monitoring base of Prizren in December. They ran into a Yugoslav army ambush in which 36 of their colleagues were killed. The nine were imprisoned in Nis, central Serbia, and were denied access to the observers and international organisations.

The KLA had demanded their release in return for eight Yugoslav army conscripts it freed under intense OSCE pressure two weeks ago. But the furor over the Racak massacre and the subsequent threats of Nato airstrikes appeared to have scuppered all hopes of their freedom. The KLA raised the stakes last Thursday by kidnapping the five Serbs, all aged between 60 and 70, from Nevojane, a village near the northern Kosovo town of Mitrovica.

Yesterday the five said they had no clues as to where they were held captive, but added that they had been treated reasonably well. Earlier, Serb police backed by Yugoslav army units had moved into the Nevojane area, forcing many to take refuge in nearby towns. The OSCE was initially sceptical of the KLA's involvement in the kidnapping. But an elderly lady in the village, Ljubinka Bigovic, who gave statements that smacked heavily of state propaganda, said: "They told us 'We are terrorists. We are the KLA'." She added: "They said this is not Yugoslavia but their land, Albania."

Mrs Bigovic said her husband, Miodrag, had been abducted at a nearby electricity distribution station where he worked and escorted to Nevojane. "There was a knock at the door, and Miodrag said he was back. It wasn't his normal time. It was 11 o'clock at night. I opened the door and saw him covered in blood. They had his hands tied behind his back and I was forced to go to the neighbours' houses and open their doors," she said. "How can we ever live here after this?" she asked.

Her son, Zoran, who was asleep at the time, escaped the



Kosovo Liberation Army fighters stand guard at the funeral of two comrades in north Kosovo. It was attended by 10,000 ethnic Albanians

ordeal because "they never came to my house", he said. He showed reporters a crumpled photograph of the Bigovics, taken during better times on a sunny day 20 years ago in Nevojane. "We never had

trouble in those days," he said in tears. Serbs from adjoining villages gathered around the foreign press corps to vent their frustration at the Western media. "You are all spies. We know

you are paid for what you write," said one youth. The OSCE said the Serbs were released from KLA headquarters in Likovac, while the Albanians were freed in the southwestern town of Suva

Reka. The organisation would not provide any other details. Washington: Madeleine Albright, the American Secretary of State, arrives in Moscow today for tough talks expected to focus on Kosovo and

Iraq, two flashpoints where Russia opposes US intervention. "The Russian influence on the Serbs is important," and Washington hopes it will use it fully, Ms Albright said recently. (AFP)

Europe vetoes US ultimatum to Milosevic

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

BRITAIN and other European members of Nato have vetoed an American proposal to issue President Milosevic with a 96-hour ultimatum this week, forcing him to comply with a long list of demands over Kosovo or face airstrikes.

Under pressure from the Europeans the US has agreed to give diplomatic efforts one more chance before considering an ultimatum.

Washington has also been persuaded to reduce the "shopping list" of demands to just a few fundamental issues, such as the withdrawal of most of the Serb troops and police in Kosovo.

Nato diplomatic sources said that the Americans had included a whole range of demands in their draft ultimatum, including access for the international war crimes tribunal and the setting up of a

ethnic Albanians — co-operation with the war crimes tribunal and early negotiations on a political settlement.

Another meeting of the Contact Group has been set for Friday, also to be held in London, to coincide with the arrival of Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State. She is spending this week talking with Russian officials about Kosovo and other matters.

The European members of Nato felt it would be inappropriate to issue Belgrade with an ultimatum this week while talks were under way with the Russians.

One Nato diplomatic source said: "Russia is against ultimatums and is opposed to airstrikes, and there is no point in deliberately antagonising Moscow while there is still a chance the Russians might play a part in persuading Milosevic to end the violence in Kosovo."

The source added: "If all diplomatic efforts fail, then it is possible that Moscow will not be so opposed to an ultimatum."

Today Nato's North Atlantic Council will meet in Brussels to review the latest efforts and to try to link up with the approach adopted by the Contact Group. European Union foreign ministers will also be meeting in Brussels today to discuss Kosovo.

One concern expressed by Nato diplomats over the weekend was that the alliance should not be seen to be biased against Mr Milosevic and in support of the Kosovo Liberation Army.

To that end, the North Atlantic Council is expected to call for urgent studies by the military planners into the possibility of sending ground troops to Albania to monitor arms smuggling into Kosovo.

Although the idea of deploying Nato troops along the border between Albania and Kosovo is acknowledged to be impractical because of the nature of the terrain and the length of the frontier, there is now a new proposal for a force to be sent to Albanian ports and airports to check on suspected arms shipments.

'If Belgrade did not comply with all the demands, Nato would have to bomb'

radio station for the Kosovo verification mission. One source said: "That would mean that if Milosevic failed to comply with all the demands, Nato would be obliged to launch airstrikes, and I don't think anyone in the alliance would want to bomb if Milosevic refused to set up a radio station for the verification team."

The Americans have agreed that further thought should be given to the wording of the ultimatum and that it should be shelved until the six-nation Contact Group has exhausted all diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis in Kosovo.

The Contact Group met in London on Friday and demanded an end to all offensive actions in Kosovo, the safe return home of displaced families from the Racak area — scene of the massacre of 45



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'Weakness' of Hussein heir led to sacking

KING HUSSEIN of Jordan removed his younger brother, Hassan, as successor to the throne after 34 years because of disappointment at the Crown Prince's leadership during the monarch's six-month absence in the US for cancer treatment, sources in Amman said yesterday.

The King was angered by reports that Hassan was beginning to behave as a permanent ruler, promoting the interests of his own children ahead of those of Hussein's and acting as if the King was never going to return, a top banker said.

The King's displeasure was clearly visible in the body language between the two men when he returned home to a euphoric welcome last Tuesday. He refused his brother permission to travel in his car as had happened previously.

The 63-year-old Sandhurst-trained monarch informed his brother at a frosty meeting on Friday that he was no longer Crown Prince, a position he had held since the Constitution was changed in 1965 after the King had survived a number of assassination attempts and was deeply concerned about the future of the Hashemite dynasty.

Palace officials in Amman said it was expected that Prince Hassan would be offered responsibility for certain areas of national life, but without any claim to the throne which Hussein inherited from his father, Talal, at 17.

There has been speculation that the King decided on the move, which has not yet been formally announced, to ensure that one of his five sons would ascend to the throne. But the

The King was disappointed by brother's rule in his absence, Christopher Walker writes

sources in Amman insisted that the main reason was what were seen as diplomatic and political blunders during the King's absence.

The strongest candidate to replace Prince Hassan was said to be the King's eldest son, Abdullah, who will be 37 later this month. Prince Abdullah — named after the King's grandfather, who was assassinated on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem — was briefly Crown Prince after he was born to Princess Muna (née Toni Gardiner), the daughter of a British Army officer.

Prince Abdullah, who is himself now married with a son, is a major-general in charge of a special forces division that oversees the security of the Royal Family. As such, he could rely on the support of the armed forces.

According to the Amman sources, the King was trying to have Prince Hamzah, 19, his much-favoured eldest son by his fourth and current wife, US-born Queen Noor, named as heir to Prince Abdullah.

Such a move would ensure the 46-year-old Queen a role in Jordan after the King's death.

One Jordanian source said that it had been difficult for

Hussein to replace the brother whom he virtually raised as a son, but that he felt he had no alternative. "God knows I love him as I love all my children and brought him up as my son," the King told CNN in the only interview he has granted since his return.

Palace sources said that Oxford-educated Prince Hassan, 51, who lacks the King's charisma, did not react adequately when Iraqi politicians publicly ridiculed his call for humanitarian aid to Baghdad.

There is also speculation that the King was irked by Prince Hassan's strong-willed Pakistani wife, Princess Sarvath, who had started refurbishing her husband's office in preparation for him ascending the throne. One politician said that Princess Sarvath had been at loggerheads with Queen Noor for some time before the King's departure to the Mayo Clinic to be treated for non-Hodgkins lymphoma.

Prince Hassan's administration was criticised in the King's absence for scandals over old serum used to vaccinate children, and polluted water pumped to Amman's exclusive suburbs. The water scandal was later blamed on the Cabinet, which the King dismissed last August while he was in Minnesota.

Whatever Prince Hassan's actions, some Jordanians feel that deposing him is uncalled for and could encourage feuding at the palace. "A lot has been invested in Prince Hassan in the last 34 years," said Labib Kamhawi, a political analyst. "People feel that to brush him aside just like that is unnecessary."



King Hussein with his eldest son, Prince Abdullah, 37, who is a strong candidate to be nominated as heir to the Jordanian throne, and his grandson, Hussein

Russians help Syria to make chemical arms

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

UNOFFICIAL secret links have been uncovered between former Russian officials and Syria aimed at helping Damascus to produce advanced chemical weapons, according to intelligence sources.

Syria has been developing chemical agents since the mid-1980s, but it is now feared that sophisticated Russian technology has been passed to Syria by former members of Moscow's chemical weapons project.

Last week President Clinton issued a warning that it was likely the United States would be the victim of a terrorist attack involving chemical or biological weapons within the next few years, because of the spread of these deadly systems among maverick states.

British intelligence sources said they believed that, although many countries were developing chemical and biological weapons, there was as yet no indication that states were prepared to pass on the expertise to sponsored terrorist groups.

However, the alleged involvement of former members of the Russian chemical weapons project in passing on key technology to Damascus — in breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention, of which Russia is a signatory — has highlighted the increasing danger posed by these systems.

Moscow's capability to develop sophisticated chemical and biological agents and to "weaponise" them, using shells, bombs and ballistic missiles, was first revealed in 1999 by Vladimir Pasechnik, a Russian defector who has settled in Britain.

It is believed that, in unofficial exchanges with senior former Russian experts, Syria has acquired the technology

for dispersing chemical agents, including VX nerve gas, by means of bombs from aircraft and from surface-to-surface missile warheads. Syrian Scud C ballistic missiles with a range of 300 miles are understood to have been adapted to disperse VX gas.

□ **Anaheim:** Identifying the genes in potential biological weapons such as anthrax or botulinic plague could prevent extremists from ever using them against the United States, experts told the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

They called for a kind of bioterrorism genome project, similar to the Human Genome Project in which scientists are racing to map out every gene in the human body. (Reuters)

Arabs reject Iraqi call

Cairo: Mohammad Said al-Sabbah, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, stormed out of an Arab meeting here yesterday after Arab foreign ministers failed to meet Baghdad's call for a unilateral lifting of UN sanctions, the Iraqi delegation said.

"The final communiqué is a cover-up for maintaining forever the UN embargo," Nabil Najm, for the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, said. "This statement is a mockery," Mr Najm told reporters at the Arab League headquarters where the foreign ministers and representatives of the 22-member pan-Arab organisation met.

Iraq wanted the ministers unilaterally to lift the sanctions imposed after the Kuwait invasion. (AFP)

Netanyahu drops defence chief

Dina Shiloh writes on the split that has shocked Israelis

YITZHAK MORDECHAI, the Israeli Defence Minister and one of the nation's most popular politicians, has been sacked by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister. The dismissal comes after speculation in which Mr Mordechai hinted he was leaving the Likud Party.

He had failed to register as a Likud candidate for the May 17 elections by last Friday's party deadline. Instead, he met leaders of a new centrist party in a Tel Aviv café. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, a former military Chief of Staff touted as leader of the new party, said he would step down for Mr Mordechai. But before Mr Mordechai could announce his decision to leave Likud, Mr Netanyahu dropped him.

The Prime Minister, however, is taking a gamble, for without Mr

Mordechai in his team Mr Netanyahu's electoral chances are considerably reduced. Meir Sheerit, the Likud whip, admitted: "His departure is a blow... Of course, he's an electoral asset to the Likud."

The split led to an immediate display of hostility between Mr Mordechai and Mr Netanyahu, shocking Israelis. Flanked by his Cabinet, Mr Netanyahu read out the letter to a press conference on Saturday night. In it the Prime Minister accused Mr Mordechai of "conducting negotiations with the Opposition in order to guarantee you will

continue to be Defence Minister — at the same time you ask me to guarantee your position as Defence Minister. I do not think it is moral."

Mr Mordechai called Mr Netanyahu "a petty politician who spreads lies" moments after he had received the letter. "I'm sorry to say that at the head of the Government is a man who I do not believe is worthy of the job, worthy of my trust, or worthy of the trust of the people of Israel," he said.

By humiliating Mr Mordechai, the Prime Minister has certainly made himself a powerful enemy. Mr Mordechai is a former major-general in a country where a military career is often the precursor of a glittering political career. Like Yitzhak Rabin, the assassinated Prime Minister, Mr Mordechai is a warrior turned peace-maker.

Moi adds voice to pleas for peace in Horn of Africa

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya, eager to boost his status as a leading statesman of the region, flew to the Eritrean capital, Asmara, yesterday in a bid to avert a renewed confrontation between Eritrea and Ethiopia over a disputed border zone.

Mr Moi left Nairobi only a day after returning home from an East African summit in Arusha, Tanzania, which agreed to promote regional co-operation and to suspend sanctions imposed in July 1996 against Burundi after a military coup which brought the

present Tutsi-led Government to power.

The summit, which was also attended by leaders from Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, was seen as a major step in restoring peace to a turbulent region.

The United Nations World Food Programme welcomed the suspension of sanctions against Burundi. Nearly a quarter of a million Burundians depend on emergency food assistance from the WFP.

President Moi was expected to urge President Afewerki of

Eritrea to exercise restraint and avoid a repeat of the fighting which broke out last year, leaving hundreds dead.

Last week the UN Security Council expressed its concern over the collapse of recent mediation efforts by the Organisation of African Unity and the build-up of troops and artillery on both sides of the 600-mile border between Eritrea and Ethiopia. Relations between the two Horn of Africa countries have remained uneasy since Eritrea won its independence from Ethiopia in 1993 after a long war.



Yitzhak Mordechai, left, confers with Amnon Lipkin-Shahak yesterday

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A specially recorded tribute to Diana Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed will be available on CD and video from Harrods and leading music stores nationwide from 25th January. The CD (£3.99) and video (£6.49) feature George Benson singing *My Father, My Son and I Will Keep You in My Heart*. The video also includes a conversation between Mohamed Al Fayed and George Benson, who has himself lost three sons in tragic circumstances. Net profits from the sale of the CD and video will go to the New School at West Heath near Sevenoaks in Kent, Diana's former boarding school which offers specialised teaching to traumatised children. (Registered charity no: 297114)

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Bad become mad as Vatican reformers drive Satan out

The Vatican, which ten days ago decreed that God was not to be imagined as "an old man with a white beard", will this week seek to recast the image of Satan, arguing that the Church needs a "more subtle and sophisticated" definition of evil for the millennium.

A Vatican commission of theologians and liturgical experts has revised long-standing 17th-century rituals governing exorcism, or the casting out of devils. A new formula drops references to Satan, or the Devil, as the embodiment of evil, in favour of definitions more compatible with modern concepts of "psychological disturbance".

"In revising the form of words for exorcism, we have rethought the nature of the evil we are trying to root out,"

The Prince of Darkness is being cast in a new light in time for the millennium, Richard Owen writes

one member of the commission said. Officials said the Church was not revising "scriptural references" to the Devil or suggesting that people should cease believing in "the Evil One". But priests conducting exorcisms should deal with evil as a force "working within all individuals" rather than as a force, traditionally embodied as Satan, threatening human beings from without.

Definitions of "demonic possession" and the rituals for dealing with it have largely remained unaltered since Pope Paul VI (1963-1968) issued the *Rituale Romanum* in 1964. It was revised under Leo XIII (1878-1903) but not substantially changed.

Monsignor Corrado Baldacci, the Vatican's chief exorcist, said the Church had to adapt to modern thinking and "be more careful in distinguishing between possession by evil spirits and what are more commonly called psychiatric disturbances".

He added: "We are changing the rules for the millennium as part of the continuing process of liturgical reform which followed the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s."

The new definition will be presented tomorrow by Cardinal Jorge Arturo Medina Estvez, Prefect of the Congregation for the Divine Cult and the Discipline of the Sacraments.

According to Vatican officials, under the new rituals priests will be encouraged not to refer any longer to the Prince of Darkness, the Accursed Dragon, the Foul Spirit, the Satanic Power or the Master of Deceit. Instead the formulas refer more vaguely to "the cause of evil". They also introduce for the first time an appeal to the Virgin Mary to help to combat evil in an "afflicted individual", a reflection of Pope John Paul II's personal commitment to the Marian cult.

Both Old and New Testaments refer to Beelzebub, the

Evil One, or Satan, with the Devil often depicted as Lucifer, a rebel angel expelled from Heaven, a theme taken up in Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost*. The Revelation of St John (12.7) describes "war in Heaven between the angels" (led by Michael) and "the Dragon, that ancient serpent who led the whole world astray whose name is the Devil, or Satan".

Jesus cast out demons in several famous New Testament passages, and St Mark (1.13) and St Matthew (4.1-11) both record that Jesus was "tempted by Satan" during his 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness.

But some modern theologians regard the depiction of Satan as a reptilian beast with cloven hooves, wings and a tail, as a medieval invention, and prefer St Augustine's definition of evil as "the absence of good".

According to Signor Baldacci, every Roman Catholic diocese is supposed to have at least one priest qualified in exorcism. Under the rituals currently in force, the priest lays his hands on the head of the possessed person while reciting the words *exorcizo te*.

He then calls out *excruciam Domini* while wrapping the hem of his stole round the neck of the possessed and keeping his right hand on his or her head. Exorcists say that the evil spirits emerge "sometimes a bit at a time, and sometimes in one big convulsion".

Father Gabriele Amorth, President of the International Association of Exorcists, said he had examined 40,000 alleged cases of demonic possession, and of the "small number" which turned out to be genuine he had successfully dealt with 130.

"There is no harm in carrying out an exorcism where it turns out to be unnecessary, whereas not to carry out an exorcism where it really is needed can be catastrophic," Father Amorth said.

Monsignor Baldacci said that of every 1,000 people who turned to an exorcist for help, only "five or six" were in reality possessed by evil spirits. Thirty cases in a thousand qualified as "demonic obsession, infestation or disturbance". The rest were "in need of psychiatric help".

Leading article, page 21

Devil on a Tarot card



Lewinsky returns to Senate turmoil

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

MONICA LEWINSKY, a baseball cap pulled low over her eyes, reluctantly flew to Washington from Los Angeles as President Clinton's Senate impeachment trial lurched into an unpredictable and highly contentious realm.

Democrats and Republicans were at each other's throats yesterday after the former White House trainee was forced to return to the capital to be questioned again about her affair with Mr Clinton. Democrats said her treatment amounted to intimidation. To add to the turmoil, Trent Lott, leader of the Republican majority in the Senate, said he would send written questions to Mr Clinton today to clear up "inconsistencies in his testimony". White House lawyers said they, not Mr Clinton, would answer.

Both sides poured out their anger on the Sunday talk shows and the ill feelings are likely to be aired again today when the Senate is due to take up two crucial votes. One is a motion to dismiss the perjury and obstruction of justice charges against Mr Clinton. It was proposed by Robert Byrd, the crusty but widely respected Democrat who is a stickler for Senate procedures.

He will argue that it is time to recognise that the requisite 67 votes needed to convict — two thirds of the 100 Senators — are simply not there and it is time to move on. The Byrd motion could pass with a majority vote of 51 senators or more, but there are only 45 Democrats and there was no sign yesterday that six Republicans were prepared to break party ranks.

The second vote will be on whether to proceed with the trial by calling witnesses. The use of witnesses could extend the proceedings by weeks, although Mr Lott insists that there would be stringent curbs on cross-examination.

Democrats hope they can round up Republican support against witnesses, a big step towards bringing the trial to a speedy conclusion with a third vote to convict or acquit. No one was sure that this could happen, but there are Republicans who are worried that the trial is harming the party's popularity.

Ms Lewinsky flew to Washington on the orders of a federal judge after she refused the request by Henry Hyde, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, for a voluntary interview, on her lawyers' advice.



Monica Lewinsky, escorted by aides and bodyguards, arrives back in Washington to face further questioning about her affair with the President

vice, Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, used his muscle on the Republican side, arguing successfully that Ms Lewinsky was obliged to make herself available under his deal giving her immunity from prosecution.

The re-emergence of Mr Starr infuriated Democrats, who said it confirmed their view that he was no more than a Republican "agent" on a witch-hunt against the President.

Mr Starr insisted that he was complying with the statute covering his appointment. In talking to Ms Lewinsky, Republican prosecutors will want to go over several key topics. One is her assertion that Mr Clinton was not a passive partner to oral sex, but fondled her sexually on nine occasions. They will also ask her whether there was a plot to cover up the retrieval of his gifts to her and efforts to find her a job away from Washington.

Pontiff attacks the Right

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

AT A gathering of Roman Catholic bishops from North and South America in Mexico at the weekend, the Pope offered a new, sharper definition of the Church's social doctrine in what he called a "broken world".

His message on this, his fourth visit to Mexico, was in marked contrast to his first visit 20 years ago, when he spoke out against the left-wing tendency in the Latin American Church dubbed "liberation theology".

Now that the threat of Communism is all but erased, the pontiff has turned his attention to the right-wing excesses of capitalism and free market economics, giving a warning that its negative side effects have brought only greater unemployment and poverty.

In a 24-page Apostolic Exhortation, the Pope outlined his latest guidelines to the bishops on everything from parish work to combating human rights abuses and poverty. Speaking at a Mass for Mexico's patron saint, Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Pope said that as the world enters a new millennium "we must stir up a new springtime of holiness".

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12 killed in KwaZulu violence

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE threat of severe political violence in South Africa, before its second democratic election in a few months loomed yesterday. Gunfire and arson erupted around Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal after the murders of 12 people, including a political leader.

The violence caused President Mandela to postpone a visit to Uganda this week, and 1,000 police and troops were rushed to the area as George Fivaz, the Police Commissioner, predicted that the violence could escalate.

Sifiso Nkabinde, secretary-general of the United Democratic Movement (UDM) and a self-confessed warlord, died in a hail of bullets fired at his car in Richmond on Saturday.

Twelve hours later, in what police said was a revenge attack, 11 people were shot dead and nine wounded by gunmen who attacked roomers at a funeral vigil in an African National Congress-dominated township.

Yesterday houses were set ablaze in a UDM-controlled area, and an ANC delegation that had rushed to Richmond came under fire.

At least 15,000 people have been killed in political violence in KwaZulu-Natal since the mid-1980s, mainly in battles between supporters of the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party. Nkabinde, 58, was the ANC's leading warlord in Richmond but was expelled from the party in 1997.

□ Lusaka: UNITA rebels said Angola was back in an all-out war and the Government's Cuban allies were sending thousands of troops. (Reuters)

Hunt for killers of missionary

Delhi: Police launched a hunt last night for a Hindu militant in eastern India after arresting 47 other suspects over the murder of an Australian missionary and his two sons.

The police announced a reward of 25,000 rupees (£380) for the arrest of Dara Singh, who allegedly led the mob that burnt to death Graham Stewart Staines, 58, and his sons aged seven and ten. Mr Staines, who worked with lepers, and his sons, Philip and Timothy, were killed when a mob set fire to the car in which they were sleeping, in the eastern state of Orissa.

It was the worst anti-Christian attack in the past year in India, during which the Christian minority has suffered more than 100 assaults at the hands of Hindu militants. A resident of India for 34 years, Mr Staines headed the Evangelical Missionary Society in the town of Baripada, populated by tribal people. (AFP)



Calcutta protesters rally yesterday over killings

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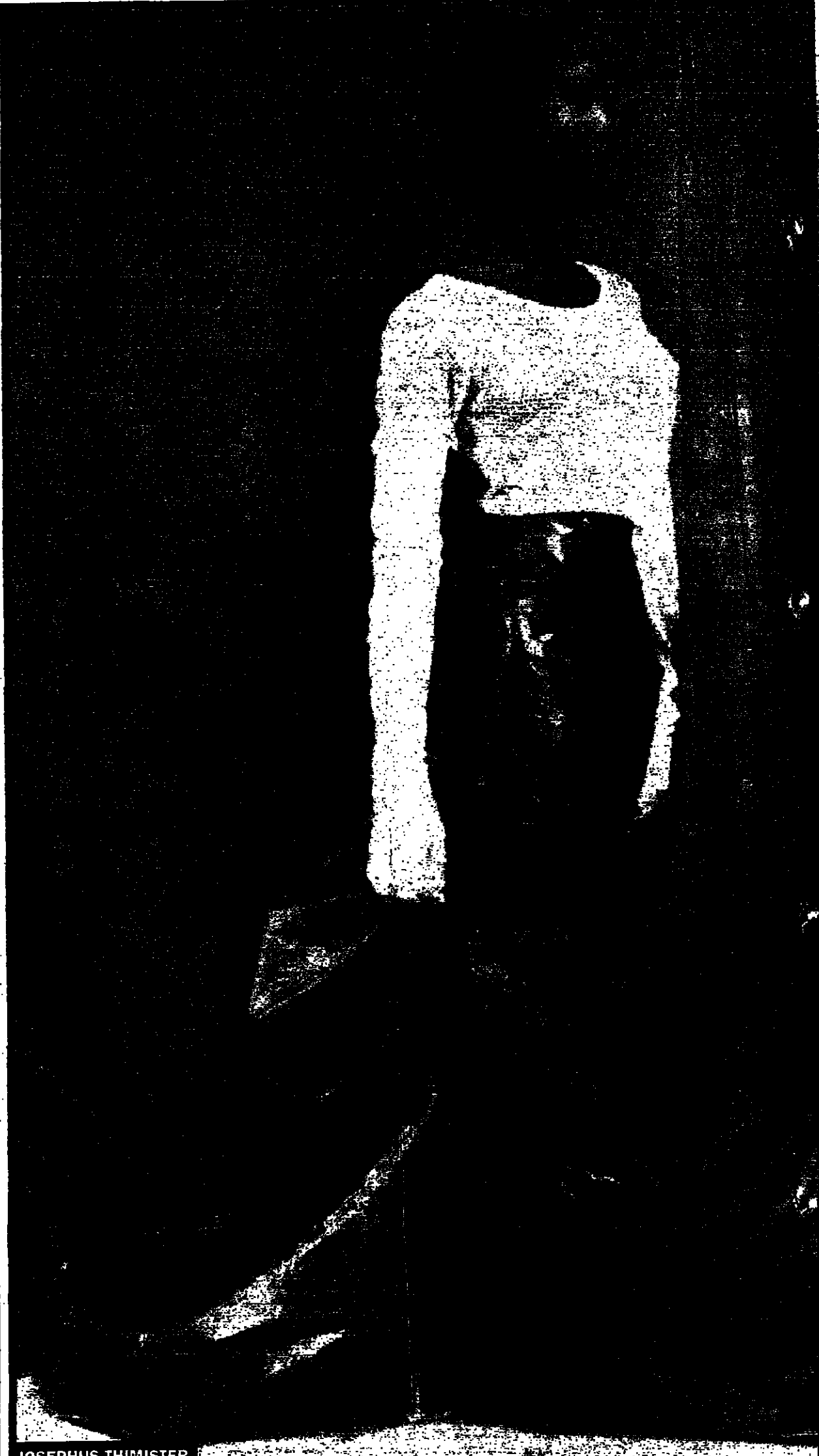
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JOSEPHUS THIMISTER

Naked truth about grooming

AMID the frantic couture schedule (not the shows but the endless dinners and parties), Chanel hit on a truly inspired piece of corporate entertaining. Taking over the Turkish baths in a former Parisian mosque, they invited the international fashion press for an evening of body scrubs, steam baths, massage - and very little clothing.

Even though everyone pretended not to look, this was quite an eye-opener - as you might imagine - and yet another insight into national characteristics. The first to be scrubbed down, first to immerse themselves in the freezing plunge-pool were the Germans; then came the toned, glossy-haired Americans; the naturally dainty French; and

**FASHION
DIARY**
By Lisa
Armstrong

the Brits, clinging on to their towelling robes for dear life because they hadn't made it to the waxers. One who had made it claimed that it was the first time her legs had ever been deforested. She fretted that her husband, who preferred her in her natural state, might divorce her, citing Chanel as co-respondent. It's hard to imagine an American having quite the same prob-

lems, which goes to show that while fashion has become international, when it comes to grooming, we are still the products of geography.

LONDON and New York aren't the only cities with boutiques that take the fashion-as-art concept seriously. Paris, though surprisingly slow to catch on to the idea given its intellectual leanings, opened Colette two years ago on the Faubourg Saint Honoré and, lo and behold, the handbag-on-a-plinth, desert-boots-in-a-glass-case style of shopping arrived with a vengeance. So much so that a few months ago Ramadan, Antoine and Artus, three cheeky, skateboarding twentysomethings, opened an antidote, L'Epicierie (The Grocery), at 30 Rue du Temple in the Marais, takes a deliberately irreverent, chaotic approach to retailing, although its merchandise is nothing if not upscale.

Marc Jacobs was so taken with the concept that he offered to design an accessory for the boutique and has invited the trio to stay at his New York apartment for the ready-to-wear collections next month.

L'Epicierie was such a success that it was forced to close

because it ran out of stock. The new merchandise will be in camouflage print, from L'Epicierie's own streetwear label to the limited-series items made exclusively for the shop by names such as Jeremy Scott, Eric Halley and, of course, a clutch of Dutch designers. At this rate Marks & Spencer won't have to do a thing to the design of its stores: the fashion pendulum will decree that drab fittings and impenetrable layouts are the worst word in retail chic.

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GIVENCHY



JEAN PAUL GAULTIER



CHRISTIAN DIOR

Catherine Zeta Jones and Liv Ullmann seemed to be enjoying themselves at Versace, although it's not always easy to tell. Hollywood's female celebrities have such preternaturally bright smiles and such unnaturally perfect posture (the better to display those darling designer donations) that they often look as though their scalps are being permanently winched upwards by invisible pulleys. They are the bona fide customers? Probably not, even though the Oscars have replaced society balls as the only occasion to wear any of these clothes, and despite the fact that Donatella Versace is on a mission to make couture appeal to a younger set — with geometric shapes in aggressively modern fabrics. Naomi Campbell, encased in a strapless wool dress pierced with metal shards that clinked on to the catwalk every time she turned energetically, looked as though she had been struck by lightning. At the other end of

The real couture customers do not get discounts and stay away from the catwalks



the scale, it's hard to imagine who goes to the more established couturiers for a £10,000 day suit. Chanel and Valentino did their best work for night (Chanel's matt sequined tops and chiffon columns were beautiful) and stumbled with awkward daytime wear: Chanel with lumpy harem trousers and Valentino with batwing-sleeved, wide tops and oddly proportioned flared skirts. But when the clothes are right, go they do, although this being a world of *trompe-l'œil* and exquisite artifice, things are rarely as they seem. Prices, never openly discussed with

the press, fluctuate dramatically. If a client is young, pretty and famous — and can fit into the couture samples — she could snap up quite a bargain. If she's the wife of a South American dictator, she might find French inflation running rampant and fabric running out. The women sitting in the front rows are frequently there just for the cameras. The real customers are often tucked up in Riyadh. They prefer to buy via video and do not get discounts. They don't even need to fly in for fittings. Many regulars have their measurements encrypted at their favourite houses in the form of a seamstress's mannequin.

To track down the lesser-spotted couture client (an endangered species if ever there was one), it is sometimes necessary to stray from the beaten track of the catwalk.

At a small, by these standards, private gathering in honour of Emanuel Ungaro last week, for instance, around 80 faithful couture customers were invited for supper — and a chance to show off their

contribution to modern culture is to bring the silicone implants of various porn stars to the attention of Britain. He has developed the anorak's delight in couture details, from the pleating that wound and twisted its way round the bodies to the faultless tailoring of the jaunty, mannish trouser suits that could have swaggered off the catwalk into many a stylish woman's wardrobe.

Even the evening wear, despite Moorish styling (a theme that popped up at Valentino and Ungaro: take out shares in huge ornate earrings now), was restrained. Here, a black jersey column with slinky cut-outs; there, a pale gold mousseline empire-line dress with a beaded bustier, worn over slim trousers. Best not to dwell on the jokey pieces — you can take the *enfant* out of the *enfant*, but you cannot always take the *enfant* out of the *terrible*.

That couture clients still exist at all makes it difficult to know on what basis to judge the clothes. On one hand, couture is meant to be the fashion designer's equivalent of Rachmaninov's Third — incredible workmanship gets the work-out of its life and arcane techniques get tossed around like rose petals.

Galliano's theme at Dior was Surrealism; there were wonderful back-to-front Prince of Wales trouser suits and evening gowns with

Cocardeau figures etched on them, but thematic clothes rarely work outside their context. The best pieces were the simplest: a black silk column suspended from a diamond choker, a Wallis Simpson calf-length silk skirt and silk shell top with a sash caught in a clasp that had been fashioned into a Dali-esque eye.

If you are judging by virtuoso displays, Christian Lacroix produced the collection of last week: a ravishing display of silk and tulle that had been whipped into extraordinarily lovely, vaguely 18th-century evening wear that looked as fresh and carefree as a baby's smile. Even the enormous violet silk ballgown, caught up in a side bow, with tiny buttons down the back and a corsage of 18th-century emerald flowers, looked light as sea mist, and that's some kind of genius.

But even couture clients reject some outfits on the ground that there isn't a place, apart from a Michael Jackson video, where they would look appropriate. Josephus Thimister, a Dutch designer with the aura of a disapproving accountant, is offering an alternative vision. His architectural shapes in *eau-de-Nil* python, parachute silk or tulle-enveloped canvas were starkly poetic and achieved the hitherto impossible: they made couture

look hip. Just as things were looking very good fashionwise for the Dutch, along came the Antwerp two, aka Viktor and Rolf, and their Concept. Last season's concept was post-atomic holocaust chic, which roughly translated into clothes that fitted over enormous neck pillows and gave all the models hunches. I wasn't crazy about the effect, but they smiled sweetly when I interviewed them and said that

deformities were a speciality and Madonna liked them, so I didn't have the heart to argue. The concept this time was Showing Your Collection in the Dark. This is so silly that it needs no further comment, except to say that it was also boring once you got past the idea that everything was in black and white and the infrared lighting made the white bits jump out.

Viktor and Rolf's speciality

is tailoring — cue tuxedos with white skeleton bones picked out on them, Victorian coat dresses, and those clerical frock coats that seem to crop up in every costume drama ever made. Several thousand outfits later when you thought things couldn't get any worse, they did: the lights went on and they ran through the entire show again. Not surprisingly, Catherine and Liv didn't show up. But Viktor and Rolf do have customers galore, apparently. It is just that most of them happen to be museums.

TOP NAMES



Christian Lacroix



Donatella Versace



Josephus Thimister



Jean Paul Gaultier



Karl Lagerfeld

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It is the time of year when brochures on my doormat tempt me to go ballooning in Cappadocia and friends announce that they're going glacier skiing. Nobody just lies on a beach any more. Smart hedonism means seeking out extreme experiences.

The smart hedonists have smart role models such as the balloonist Richard Branson and the polar explorer Rannulph Fiennes. These high-profile adventurers inspire increasing numbers of couch potatoes to set out in search of similar thrills.

For those with the temperament for it, taking risks is more than fun, sexy and exciting—it's essential. Some people don't really feel alive unless they get the chance to look death in the face. I'm not one of these. I asked a psychotherapist

The craze for experiencing extreme sporting thrills is a growing and worrying one, says Celia Brayfield

why and she said: "Because you have got a life," meaning creative fulfilment through family, art and career. The expanding population of under-40s without such satisfactions provides the market for the new extreme leisure industry.

This market could stand some education. In our controlled lives the most daring thing most of us do is hit the new euro key on the computer. We never meet nature on a daily basis. The Prince of Wales once called Rannulph Fiennes "mad but marvellous". I suspect that most people only heard the second adjective. Nor do the less privileged appreciate that

their role models take their risks with the benefit of the best training and back-up money can buy.

Sadly, recent weeks have brought tragic and abundant proof that ordinary people doing ordinary things no longer know Mother Nature well enough to give her the respect she deserves. Four climbers were killed by an avalanche near Ben Nevis and a boy of 11 died after trying out his new fishing rod on a trip in the Bristol Channel.

In both cases the warnings of weather forecasters were ignored. Recently, when gale-force winds were predicted, 70 amateur sailors

were rescued off the coast of Essex alone.

And some people never learn. Sarah Woodroffe, who fell 800 feet from a mountain in Glencoe and broke her neck, left hospital last week. She announced that she would be returning to mountaineering. "It was like being on a rollercoaster when you lose your stomach," she said of the fall.

I could cite many more tragedies, which suggest that people who choose extreme sports to spice up their lives are doing so without being able to calculate the risks. Within my own circle of friends, one paraglided to death

and another gave up the sport after hitting a thermal which nearly took him to the stratosphere.

In contrast to this tragic tourism, I remember interviewing Lord Hunt, the leader of the Everest expedition. Instead of gung-ho I met a surprisingly quiet hero. "Did you ever think of giving up?" I asked. "Every morning," he admitted, explaining that it was the duty of an expedition leader to calculate the risk of losing lives.

The only people concerned about our increasing appetite for risk are insurers, whose statistics show the associated death claims rising year-on-year at about 10 per cent. Maybe it's time the mad-but-marvellous squad used their influence to promote adventure education for people who share their courage but not their advantages.

Why I stay with the man who beat me

Arabella Melville, an academic, claims she has stopped her partner being violent, says Penny Wark

The damage, says Arabella Melville, was "absolutely minimal". That is how she describes 15 years of abuse by Colin Johnson, the man she loves. She flexes her right hand.

"One slightly damaged finger joint," she says unwillingly. "That finger has straightened out and works normally. For me, minimal." For much of those 15 years she was so frightened of Johnson that she believed he could kill her, yet now, she seems to be excusing him. "It was never a continuous thing that lasted for a long time. It was lashing out. It wasn't considered."

Two things are remarkable about Melville's story. One is that 25 years after she met Johnson, she still adores him and they still live together; the other is that it is now five years since Johnson hit her. This is not because he sought change, but because Melville came to believe that she could alter his behaviour. By her own analysis, she has, and this is the subject of her new book, *Difficult Men: strategies for women who choose not to leave*.

Her theory is controversial, straddling both the central feminist mantra about taking power, and relying on the contradictory premise that women should take responsibility

for their partner's bad habits. Change, she maintains, is always possible. By refusing to tolerate Johnson's violent behaviour, and temporarily walking away when she sees it coming, she has taken control, she argues. One imagines this is not quite what the Home Office Minister Paul Boateng had in mind last week when, in response to a report that nearly one in 20 Britons had suffered domestic violence, he called for "a basic shift in attitude... towards the day when such conduct is universally recognised as reprehensible".

Melville, the product of a solid middle-class upbringing in Birmingham, is a gentle, friendly woman of 50. An academic based at York University, she writes guidance on cancer services for the NHS, but her private life is grounded in Porthmadog where she lives with Johnson, a diabetic who is becoming progressively ill. Her appearance is neat, though when we meet in London it rapidly becomes clear that her confidence is less easily controlled.

She was 26 when she met Johnson, and already rebelling against her background. Unhappy about the use of animals in her field of experimental psychology, she had given up academic life and become a nude model. Through this she

met Gerald Kingsland, the anti-hero of *Castaway* fame, and then his friend, Johnson. "Colin was wild and attractive, but most important was the intellectual philosophical thing: thinking things through and not stopping at some taboo. He has always been totally excessive," she says.

He is also nine years her senior and was then a confident businessman. The abuse started gradually, though she claims not to remember when he first hit her. "His ex-wife used to say, has he started hitting you yet? I recognised that Colin had reacted violently but I didn't imagine I could be the victim of it."

"Things started going downhill when he went from rich to

penurious and lost confidence. The outbursts of anger and frustration became more frequent. It wasn't focused on me. I just happened to be there. I remember trying to crawl under the sofa to hide because I was so afraid. He didn't seem to see that."

"He was abusive verbally very frequently, daily, during the middle period of our relationship, after the first five years. If it's constant, it's undermining, but the actual physical violence was rare, once a year. There is also the smashing of things, the throwing of bottles against the wall. That is maybe not a danger to you but it reminds you, and it happened a lot. If things were going well, there would be a lot more mutual respect but if we had failed at setting up a project, he became very obnoxious."

"I think he didn't feel he was in control and all this time he's been trying to control me because he's afraid of me getting away. I always had the fear that if he wasn't in control he could do some really serious damage to me. I really believed he was capable of killing me but he wouldn't survive long after that because

there's no doubt that he loves me deeply." She is more graphic in a short section of her book: "He held me by the hair to make sure he had my full attention as he shouted. It hurt. I told him it hurt. He didn't listen or didn't hear. I tried to pull his hands away. Failing, I thumped his hand with a torch I was holding. That was a bad mistake."

"He snatched the torch and started hitting me with it. I held up my hands to protect my face. Smash. My hand took the full force of the blows. The torch broke. I ran away, bruised and crying."

But she stayed. Why? Was she frightened of him or else she might meet? She had been all been bullied at school and was later dominated by the man she married, who eroded her confidence by criticising her.

"I wasn't frightened of being on my own. It was entirely emotional. Frequently I got to the point of being so wretched that I would think about gathering my things. Then Colin would turn and the person you love reappears and I would think, I love him, and I do, and I always have, but I love the in-

telligent person, the sexy person, the exuberant and outgoing and witty person. Nobody else has been able to make me laugh as consistently as he does. The things I love about Colin were always too strong for me to go." She shakes her head and laughs.

The turning point came during a course of counselling she had undertaken in the hope of changing her relationship with Johnson. When she finally acknowledged his violent outbursts, her counsellor encouraged her to see that Melville's own defensiveness — her inability to talk, hiding her face, crying — provoked Johnson into seeing her as the object of his frustration. The crucial point was that as her failure to stand up for herself made Johnson's violence more probable, it might be possible to reduce the probability of violence by behaving differently.

"It never happened after that," says Melville. "It was like the lights coming on. After that session I talked to Colin about the violence and the impact on me. I'd never before been able to explain clearly to him how destructive it was. As soon as he started to behave in a way I recognised as threatening or abusive, insulting me, I started saying, sorry, I'm not putting up with this. I would leave the room, go to my own room, leave the house if necessary. He would

try to stop me leaving but I would do that very early in the process, before he was really out of control. If you do that with total regularity that abusive behaviour starts to become less common."

"One of the terrible mistakes women make is to think that if they are better, more attractive, more exciting, maybe he would stop getting angry with them. They reward him for his behaviour and that is playing into his hands. My approach involves the woman enhancing her own power."

There are several difficulties with Melville's theory. One is that what works for someone who is middle class and articulate is not necessarily a good play for someone without her advantages. More profoundly, she seems to be encouraging women associated with difficult men to take responsibility for their unpleasantness. How many women have started relationships with "unreliable" men in the hope that they could change them, only to realise, much later, that they could not? The more conventional view is that a woman's responsibility is to herself, and that means leaving a violent man.

Indeed, as Melville admits, although Johnson has not hit her during the past five years

— she insists she is no longer frightened of him, and it was his suggestion that she wrote openly rather than anonymously about their difficulties — his potential for abuse does not seem to have vanished completely. "He still insults me sometimes because to him it's a joke," says Melville lightly. "Or so he says."

The balance of their relationship has also been changed by his illness and his increasing dependence on her. What makes her so certain that she can help other women?

"Relationships are in a dynamic balance and if one part changes, inevitably the other part will change," she replies. "When you see a pattern of fear and the reaction to it, you know it's not going to be just true for yourself. Colin wasn't willing to go to a therapist and that was one of the reasons for the awful frustration that I felt. I saw it as his problem and felt powerless until I realised that I wasn't. It doesn't have to be your problem for you to set about solving it."

If the man you love also loves you, shouldn't he want to solve it too?

"Yes," she says quietly. There is a long pause. "I don't really have an answer to that."

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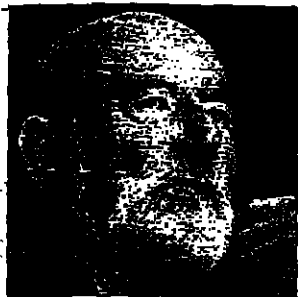
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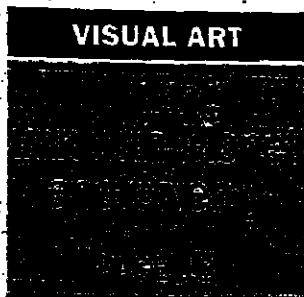
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Making drama out of the truth

The problem with trans-forming journals into plays is evident. Where is the dramatic conflict, where the tension to be found in writings which tend to move forward plotlessly, shapelessly and all too chronologically? And the problem is still more acute if the denouement is predictable, as is the case with the two diary-dramas that have just opened in London. We can hardly be astonished when Marie Bashkirtseff, protagonist of *Brief Candle* (New End, NW3), dies at 24 because a narrator in the splendidly robust form of Denis Quilley has told us at the beginning that she will do precisely that. It is much the same with the multiple mortalities in Mick Gordon's *Intimate Death* (the Gate, W11).

Does this matter? In the case of *Brief Candle*, I fear so. In that of *Intimate Death*, which comes to W11 via workshops at the National, not too much. At the start Gordon's staging of the journals of the Paris psychologist Marie de Hennezel made me feel so good that all thoughts of shape and plot evaporated. But by the end I had to admit that Gordon had created a piece as sensitive and absorbing as Peter Brook's somewhat similar series of case-studies, *The Man Who*.

De Hennezel works in a hospice, and at first struck me as taking an offputting relish in her job. It is not that she is morbid or ghoulish, just that she sounds as if she is committing that most un-English of sins, invasion of privacy. How would you like to breathe your last in the company of a woman for whom it is "an unforgettable opportunity to experience true intimacy"? I listened to Gillian Barge's formidable Marie gravely rabbiting on about

death being "our crowning moment", a sweet and tender event that "binds me to every other human being" and "sends me back to the essential questions of life"; and, like that, were I their object, I would ensure that my last words were "blast your impermanence".

But gradually I realised that the problem was not the content but the structure. Instead of hammering us with all this editorialising before showing us any of the human material from which it is derived, Gordon should have interspersed it with the scenes that occur in and around the hospital bed ominously

THEATRE

standing stage-centre. If Marie talked of "integrating death with life" and so on between encounters with her patients, she would gain in credibility, sympathy and trust — and the evening in variety.

It takes time, too much time, to see that she handles the dying and their relatives wisely. An AIDS patient, trapped in guilt, angry silence, belatedly realises his homophobic father loves him; and his mother wants to hold his hand. A cancerous ex-man, distraught yet oddly relieved to find she isn't in a convalescent home, speaks of her husband, God and the blue, blue sky with new candour. A mother, herself a doctor, gives her comatose daughter the blessing that somewhere deep inside her seems to become permission to let go.

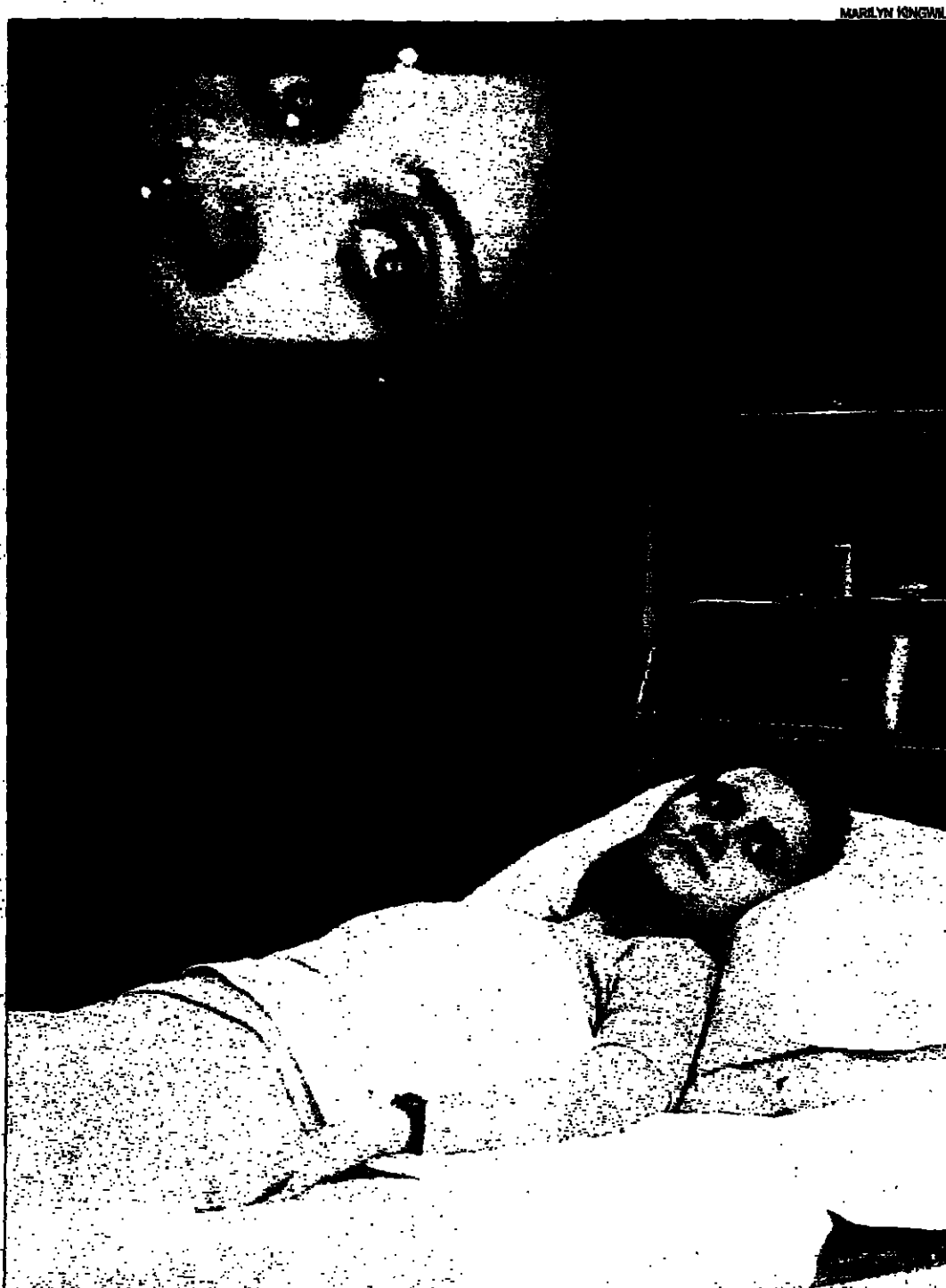
Amelda Brown, Nina Conti, Iain Fraser, Michael Hadley and Nicholas Tizzard, each signalling the moment of death by clambering from bed and quietly exiting, are equally impressive as terminal cases whose

afflictions range from cerebral degeneration to paralysis in everything but the eyelids and a single finger. Finally a drug addict, physically destroyed by a wild life, drinks champagne with her prostitute mother and, murmuring "I want to die", calmly pulls out the oxygen tubes that are allowing her to breathe. If Barge's Marie had told us at the evening's start that this was the most enviable and "beautiful" death she could recall, I might have been sick. By then I believed her — and was moved.

Brief Candle, though well staged by Stella Quilley, is a more conventional example of diary-drama. Celia White is another Marie, Marie Bashkirtseff, a Russian aristocrat whose all-round talents and energies were outrageously precocious but who found the fame she craved only when her journals were published after her death from TB in 1894. If Carlo Ardito's script is to be trusted — and it comes across as doggedly conscientious — she was warned off marrying a would-be priest by the Holy Father himself, had an amusing encounter with the King of Italy and an eccentric correspondence with Maupassant, and was winning prizes for her paintings when the Grim Reaper struck.

White, though lacking quite the electricity the role needs, is a most appealing Marie, and Quilley defies Old Father Time by playing everyone from a lovelorn lad to a canny, quavering Pope. But is the prodigy interesting enough or Ardito's evocation of her sufficiently imaginative to justify her resurrection on an English stage today? There I have my doubts.

BENEDICT
NIGHTINGALE



Nina Conti in *Intimate Death*, Mick Gordon's London staging of the journals of a Paris psychologist

An early night

DARTING between an assortment of old men, bold servants and rapscallions on the streets of Modena the following events occur: a girl twin, whose brother is supposed lost, loves a young nobleman and, in order to be near him, disguises herself as a boy and becomes his page; the nobleman thinks he loves another and uses the page to carry messages to this other lady, who promptly falls for the messenger.

Sounds familiar? Yes, this is the source of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, written 70 years earlier in Siena. The route travelled by the Lelia, Flaminio and Isabella of *Gli*

The Decolored Riverside Studios

Ingannati on their way to becoming Viola, Orsino and Olivia is a matter best left for scholars. Does the original hold the stage today?

Probably. The sexual shenanigans are far bolder than anything to be found in Shakespeare. Syphilis must have been ravaging Italy at the time but a jovial air of enjoyment runs through the play, and Christopher Cairns translates (I cannot say how literally) into lively colloquial talk.

Kenneth Rea has described in these pages the hazards a producer/director must overcome to mount a show of this sort, and these may account for the patchwork success of his production. The design applies the old street-with-doors format to the 1920s but then leaves the actors to walk about a bit, to bring some animation to a scene. This is all right when action is developing, as in Chrissie Cottrell's outwitting of a Spanish soldier on the erotic make (a funny Stephen Ventura), but areas where the past is being unfolded hang heavy. A brave endeavour, then, like plums in a pudding that hasn't quite cooked.

JEREMY KINGSTON

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■ MUSIC

Bernard Haitink conducts the *Carle Duke Bluebeard's Castle* at the Festival Hall CONCERT: Saturday REVIEW: Next week

GALLERIES: Nicolette Jones meets one of the last living links to the celebrated household and garden at Giverny



A life devoted to preserving the heritage of a genius: Jean-Marie Toulgout in front of his step-grandfather's paintings at the Royal Academy's *Monet in the 20th Century* show

As the current Royal Academy exhibition earns Claude Monet yet more admiration, one man finds himself cast again in the role of Guardian of the Monet Heritage. He is Jean-Marie Toulgout, who never met Monet but has more personal knowledge of his world than most.

Toulgout spent his childhood visiting Monet's house at Giverny. It must have been an extraordinary household. His great-aunt, Blanche Hochet-Monet, was Monet's step-daughter by his second marriage to Alice Hochet, who died in 1911. Blanche, moreover, was also Monet's daughter-in-law, wife of Monet's son Jean, who died in 1914. After this, Blanche became Monet's housekeeper and secretary until his death in 1926, and continued to occupy the celebrated house for the rest of her life.

Toulgout — Monet's step-grandson — lived with his parents 150 metres from his great-aunt. His grandmother was Suzanne, another of Alice's six children by her first marriage, who moved in with Monet when Alice died. Suzanne died when Toulgout's mother was only one year old, which prompted Monet to show considerable kindness to the little girl.

Toulgout is not a blood relation, then, but journalists would like him to be. Indeed, one suggested fancifully that he might be Monet reincarnated, because he was born in 1927, nine months after Monet's death, and because he is also a painter who has described himself as "dependent on the

High priest of the Monet cult

goodwill of light on nature". This idea makes Toulgout laugh and grimace, with a hint of uneasiness: "I am interested in Indian mysticism," he admits, apparently in jest.

Toulgout visited his great-aunt almost daily when he was little, not least because she would give him chocolate. Nobody talked much about Monet to him then. "But we were completely in the environment of Monet. Nothing was changed, because Blanche didn't want to move anything from how it was when Monet was alive."

Blanche preserved the furnishing and decoration, observed the household routine he had established, and continued to cook the food he liked. Toulgout now finds himself the source of recipes for what Monet used to eat. Young Jean-Marie played in the garden that Monet had planned, and in a house that was full of pictures whose influence is still visible in Toulgout's work.

He left Giverny when he was 20,

and worked — because he could not make a living from his painting — as an architect and in garden design. It was only later, when he had married in Paris, that he and his wife decided to return to live in the family house in Giverny, close to Monet's, embracing a connection that was both a privilege and also (when he feels it eclipses his own identity) a burden.

Together, in the 1970s, they helped his uncle, James Butler, to draw out the plans of the garden in Monet's day. With this assistance it was restored, after ten years of neglect by the French Academy (to whom Monet's other son Michel had left the house), with money from the Giverny Foundation in America and Lila Wallace of *Reader's Digest*.

The garden is not, Toulgout confesses, quite as it was. It was, he thinks, more like the original when it was first restored — but little by little

also painted, was a mentor, as was the American Joan Mitchell, who lived near by. What's more, Toulgout's father (a poultry farmer) had Surrealist friends, and Giverny was always a mecca for artists.

Toulgout studied painting in Nice, and at first his work was Cubist and abstract, partly in reaction to the (by then) unfashionable Impressionism. Now, just as he came home physically, he has come back to doing work that consciously refers to Monet, with perhaps the more brilliant palette of Matisse, but with a decorative style of his own. His work, which goes on show at the Francis & Taylor gallery in London in May, is not Monet imitation. But he still paints the garden and the lily pond.

Perhaps this is asking for trouble — for inevitable disappointment and unhelpful comparisons. But Toulgout came back to the style, he says, through his love of nature. And as for the subject: perhaps Monet has made us all want to paint the lily pond. Toulgout used to own one of Monet's paintings. It was a picture that featured Blanche painting and his grandmother, Suzanne, reading. He sold it in order to go back to live at Giverny, and to give up his office work. "I sold in order to be a painter," he says. No doubt Monet would have understood.

Monet was not the only influence on Toulgout's painting. He was taught the basics of the art at seven by his grandfather, the American artist Theodore Butler. Blanche, who

also painted, was a mentor, as was the American Joan Mitchell, who lived near by. What's more, Toulgout's father (a poultry farmer) had Surrealist friends, and Giverny was always a mecca for artists.

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The best from Barstow

SALOME isn't quite the same without the head on the platter. Or is it? Those who have been disappointed that nothing in Opera North's Richard Strauss gala evening was to be staged were reckoning without the extraordinary and ageless talent of the soprano Josephine Barstow. At the end of this concert she gave one of the finest performances of her career in the final scene from *Salome*.

No growing drama of infatuation had prepared her for it: no physical Dance of the Seven Veils had led up to it, other than in the vividly imagined choreography of the English Northern Philharmonia conducted by Opera North's music director, Steven Sloane. Yet Barstow was there, in her own imagination, under that vast moon, pleading first like

child, then with the dignity of one who has made her final decision, for the head of Jokanaan. Barstow's only nod to the histrionic art was in the slightest inclining of the body as she leant forward as if to listen for the moment of execution. And then a single, light touch of the lip with her fingertip as she contemplated her first kiss.

Everything else was concentrated in the voice: a basso profundo of defiance against her mother; the bright, feverish gleam unique to Barstow's *Salome* as speech and song fuse; the silver centre of a single high note as the *Gedult* of *Die Liebe*, the secret of love, is glimpsed. Barstow was ably supported by Stuart Kale's fiercely animated Herod and Carole Wilson's formidable Herodias.

The English Northern Philharmonia had, of course, been working towards this point all evening. The keening principal oboe inseparable from the humming-lunar palette of *Salome* had already shown his mettle at the Presentation of the Rose in an orchestral suite from *Der Rosenkavalier*. Maddeningly, he was not told who did the cut-and-paste job, which was actually more of an affectionate, old-style scrapbook of reminiscences of the opera. Some of the scraps were, indeed, a little ragged around the edges, but Sloane judged to a nice spread of schmalz required for the succession of waltzes.

And earlier, a smaller section of the orchestra sharpened their wits for Strauss's own orchestral suite, *Le bourgeois gentilhomme*, played with due regard for both its merriment and its melancholy.

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CONCERTS

San Francisco sparkle

ARTS

POP

Elvis is back!

Maximum revs

Of the two dozen or so acts that performed at the Astoria last week under the NME Carling Premier Shows banner, none has been talked up by media taste-makers more vigorously than Mercury Rev. Their fourth album, *Deserter's Songs*, a delicate and at times wilfully eccentric collection of dispatches from the American rock underground, was heaped with critical praise out of all proportion to its artistic and commercial achievements and, after ten years of erratic manoeuvring, the band from Buffalo, New York, has found itself in the full glare of the spotlight.

On Thursday Mercury Rev responded with an unexpectedly forceful performance that mixed the mournful mood and

edgy dynamics of contemporaries such as Radiohead and Spiritualized with the grandeur of progressive rock giants including Neil Young and even Pink Floyd. It was, in short, one hell of a show.

Apart from a rather flat reworking of Nick Cave's *Into My Arms* and a raging encore of John Lennon's *Imagino*, the set was divided equally between material from *Deserter's Songs* and the band's first album, *Yerself Is Steam*, released in 1991. Exuding a studious air of application, the six musicians pushed off with *Goddess On A Highway*.

Although singer and guitarist Jonathan Donahue looked a reluctant frontman, he was not without charisma, and his high, fragile voice lent a poignant twist to *The Funny Bird*

and *Tonite It Shows*. Keyboard players Adam Snyder and Dave Fridmann added the majestic sounds of mellotron and other embellishments to the mix but, for the most part, the nuances of the recorded versions were discarded in favour of a bold rock'n'roll dynamic, and numbers such as *Frittering* and *Car Wash Hair* were memorable as much for the cyclonic soloing of lead guitarist Grasshopper as for their undoubted melodic charms.

As the band cruised towards the monumental climax of *Opus 40*, a juddering light-show lent visual drama to a show which plainly marked out Mercury Rev as one of rock's new heavyweights.

Shack, who played earlier, have languished on the margins of British pop for many years. Led by singer Michael Head, formerly of Liverpoolian under-achievers the Pale Fountains, they played pop-literate songs involving pleasantly chiming electric and acoustic guitars and a sound sense of melodic purpose. But, like so many of the bands granted the unaccustomed exposure of a Premier Shows gig, they seemed a little out of their depth in a venue of this size.

DAVID SINCLAIR



Mercury Rev's Jonathan Donahue: reluctant frontman with charisma to spare at the Astoria last Thursday

Live from the grave

Elvis - The Concert
Wembley Arena

"ELVIS tickets" the touts were yelling, doing a brisk trade which they were denied in the king's lifetime. Presley set foot in Britain but once and briefly, when his plane refuelled here in 1960. This arguably made the "virtual Elvis" show his British debut — Presley's digitally enhanced image on a huge screen and his youthful voice accompanied live on stage by his now ageing former band and one-time backing singers.

Natalie Cole had no idea what she was starting when she recorded the first beyond-the-grave duet with her late father eight years ago. This was the second coming not quite made flesh but as eerily close as you can get. The celluloid Presley introduced his old sidemen and there they were, grey and whiskery, but sounding just as they always did. Play it, James, Presley told his legendary guitarist in one marvellous moment during *Heartbreak Hotel*, and Burton, now 59, obliged with a blistering solo.

Whether this hybrid form qualifies as genuine live entertainment is another mat-

ter. True, pianist Glen D. Hardin, bassist Jerry Scheff, drummer Ronnie Tutt and Burton were real enough. Yet all eyes were fixed on the big screen while the band recreated their performances of almost 30 years ago around Presley's recorded voice, an exercise in precision rather than inspiration. It had impact, but no more so than a good IMAX film.

The costume changes indicated that the footage came from half a dozen early 1970s concerts, several of the performances from

the documentary *Elvis - That's The Way It Is*. At the time Presley was in good shape, slim and smoulderingly handsome. He was also undergoing a musical renaissance with songs such as *In The Ghetto* and *Suspicious Minds*, which gave the first half of the show real punch. The big early hits such as *Hound Dog* and *Love Me Tender*, delivered in cabaret style, were mostly kept for after the interval.

Towards the end Presley told his audience: "Turn the house lights up, I'd like to take a look at you." It was as if he was talking directly to us, and the screen switched to the Wembley crowd — not just a virtual Presley concert but an interactive one, too. And so are all our yesterdays about to be digitally transformed into the brave new future of live entertainment? The sell-out audience's enthusiasm proved that the market for such unashamed nostalgia is boundless. The hologram Hendrix and the cyber Sinatra will surely be coming to a concert hall near you soon.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

Root-and-branch revelations

The singing of America is something Michael Tilson Thomas has always taken on with a Whitmanesque zeal. His recent years at San Francisco have seen him commissioning and performing American composers, as well as writing himself.

At the start of their European tour it was a case of West meeting East — from sea to shining sea, as it were — as the San Francisco Symphony introduced itself with Charles

Ives's *Three Places in New England*. These idiosyncratic tone poems, with their fearless cross-hatching of metre and texture, immediately put an orchestra, and its audience, on their mettle.

The slow march of the black regiment, commemorated in *The Saint Gaudens in Boston Common*, starts so quietly, with its fragments of figures coming into focus as from a

CONCERTS

long distance, that Tilson Thomas seemed for several seconds to be conducting thin air. And *The Housatonic* at Stockbridge depicts the great slow

river in a mesmerising pattern of rhythmic undercurrents and irregular eddies of phrasing. Both here, and as one band collides with another in the central July 4 piece, *Putnam's Camp*, Tilson Thomas seized the momentum behind every shifting rhythm; and his orchestra, responded with swiftness of ensemble.

Tilson Thomas is, of course, as Russian in his roots as he is American in his branches, and

lower down and twinkling in the upper register, to bring out details often missed in the scores. He and the orchestra captured all the bittersweet ambiguity of the *Piano Concerto No 24 in C minor, K491*: at moments such as the third movement's shy opening, a real sense of mystery hung over the music, keeping the eventual path of the music a surprise. In the 25th Concerto, K503 in C, they found a perfect balance between the music's playfulness and grandeur, with both coming together in the lively dance of the finale.

The *Symphony No 39 in E flat, K543*, was only slightly less compelling, and perhaps because Levin is more at home behind a keyboard than in front of an orchestra. His conducting may be unconventional, but he found the structure of a work which moves from muted emotions to high spirits. As with the others, this score was illuminated by the OAE's gossamer playing: ironically, the homogenous textures of a modern-instrument performance would have made the music sound much more old-fashioned than it did here.



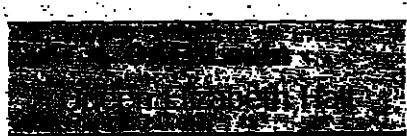
Tilson Thomas: packed a powerful punch

haps, have bitten with sharper teeth. Tilson Thomas preferred to pack punches rather than to conjure terror; but this was a performance of superbly sustained power.

The evening's solo showpiece was Mendelssohn's *Violin Concerto* played by Gil Shaham. A robust but somewhat unstable and erratic performance was redeemed by Shaham's first-movement cadenza and his slow movement, both of them unusually searching in their thoughtful shaping of suspense and of song.

HILARY FINCH

Sublime high spirits



taneous flair yet sounded just right, and they kept orchestra and audience alike on the edge of their seats: a refreshing change from the way in which the same cadenzas are routinely trotted out. Most significantly, the fragile sound of the fortepiano he played (a modern copy of a late 18th-century instrument) drew the ear in, giving the listening experience extra intensity.

Levin used the instrument's tone, dusky

JOHN ALLISON

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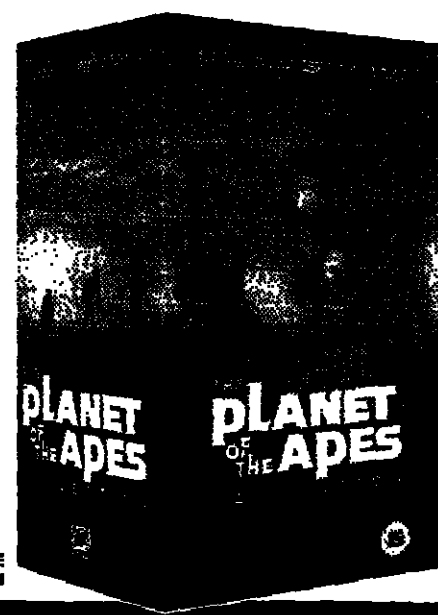
Beansprouts, noticed after a visit to the Tate.
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Shaken and stirred by Paddy

Ashdown's announcement leaves Labour protesting too much

Tony Blair has spent the month since Peter Mandelson's resignation claiming that nothing has really changed. New Labour modernisation is continuing as before. Similarly, we are now told, Paddy Ashdown's departure will not affect Labour-Liberal Democrat co-operation and their aim of making the Centre Left the dominant force in British politics. But the very frequency and force with which such claims are made reveals how unsure the Blairites now are.

There is a temptation to link the two departures and to regard Mr Ashdown as the fourth victim of the Mandelson affair. That is too glib. The story began with the report in late October of the Jenkins Commission on Electoral Reform. While Mr Blair welcomed its broad thrust, his response was cooler than leading Liberal Democrats expected. This partly reflected the hostility of many in the Cabinet and on the Labour back benches. An early referendum on electoral reform has therefore looked increasingly unlikely. The subsequent mud-died extension of Labour-Lib Dem co-operation was badly received in both parties and put Mr Ashdown on to the defensive.

All this happened before Mr Mandelson's resignation. He was the leading Cabinet advocate both of new Labour and of co-operation.



Peter Riddell

His departure fuelled speculation about a shift away from new Labour. Mr Blair has quickly underlined his intention to stick to new Labour policies. In particular, there have been announcements on education that have directly challenged failing local education authorities and schools by proposing the involvement of outsiders, including private companies.

Mr Blair has also reaffirmed his political strategy. He reacted to John Prescott's rumblings about links with the Lib Dems by initiating an extension of co-operation to European security and defence policies. That was also done in the knowledge of Mr Ashdown's announcement last Wednesday. Despite his earlier decision for family reasons, I still wonder whether, if the Government's response to the Jenkins report had been more positive, and Mr Mandelson's departure had not removed a key ministerial ally, Mr Ashdown might not have been persuaded to stay on longer. Everything would also have looked different if Labour had had a majority of 50 or fewer and Mr Blair had formed a coalition with the Lib Dems.

Downing Street has repeatedly said that co-operation will continue and may even extend to areas such as pensions. No likely successor to Mr Ashdown is going to repudiate his strategy, however sceptical they sound during the leadership contest. Mr Ashdown has talked as if the battle is as good as won and his successor will lead his party into government after the next election. He has certainly taken his party a very long way in the past 11 years, but the future direction is less certain. Many

in both parties are hostile and there is little appetite for a big leap forward this side of the election. Moreover, as Mr Ashdown admitted yesterday, he and Mr Blair differ over long-term aims. Mr Ashdown looks to a pluralist politics of co-operation between separate parties based on proportional representation. But Mr Blair talks about a "Big Tent" inclusiveness in which new Labour embraces the whole Centre Left, ending the century-old schism between the Labour and Liberal traditions.

Mr Blair remains clear in his strategy, but unsure tactically, especially with the departure of two close allies. He is also ambivalent about the Lib Dems. He respects Menzies Campbell, who has a high reputation on foreign and defence affairs, though Downing Street's approval would not help his leadership chances, or those of Charles Kennedy. However, if anyone else became leader, Mr Blair might listen more to his advisers, who argue that it is not worth wasting time on such an unreliable and self-righteous bunch. Instead, new Labour should reshape the Centre Left on its own. But, in the long term, that ignores the continuing strength of old Labour and the possible need for the next election for the support of the Lib Dems against a revived Tory party.

However, perhaps the most potent political factor remains Europe and the promised referendum on a single currency. That would bring Labour and the Lib Dems together with the minority of pro-European Tories under a centrist umbrella. The odds are still that a referendum will not be held until after the next election. Mr Mandelson was the Cabinet's most public advocate of getting ready for entry, but his departure has been partially offset by Robin Cook's shift from his earlier scepticism. I predict that one of the big political stories of the year will be Cook's re-emergence as a major player, on both Europe and these broader political issues, on both of which he is now closer to the modernisers than his old allies on the Left.

Mr Blair faces growing pressure to make public his private belief that it is a question of when and how, not if, Britain enters the euro. That is necessary both to persuade business to prepare and to help to swing public opinion behind entry. (The latest poll shows a drop in opposition since the launch of the euro.) A revealing indicator will be the language used when the Government unveils the National Changeover Plan in mid-February. Mr Blair and Gordon Brown have not yet decided on the precise emphasis.

Blairism has been more shaken than its leader would admit. But Mr Blair now has a chance to show that his political strategy, as well as his policies, remains on course. Boldness on the euro would not only strengthen Britain's position in Europe but would also reshape the political landscape at home.

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LORD PROTECTOR OF THE NEW COMMONWEALTH

Cromwell, where are you?

The Lord Protector left a bloody legacy, but at this time of constitutional ferment we need another man of destiny

On January 30, 1649, King Charles I was beheaded on a platform, just outside the Banqueting House, in Whitehall, on January 21, 1793, King Louis XVI was guillotined in what is now the Place de la Concorde; on July 16, 1918, Tsar Nicholas II was shot in the House of Special Purpose at Ekaterinburg.

The killing of the King was the climax of each of the three great revolutions of modern Europe. Each death has had a long historic resonance: the English revolution not only influenced the other two, but laid the ideological foundation for the American Declaration of Independence. Like the killing of the Austrian Archduke, Franz Ferdinand, on June 28, 1914, in Sarajevo, the execution of Charles I is an event in a history we are still living.

Gilbert Burnet, the 17th-century historian who was to become Bishop of Salisbury, was only five years old when the King died; nevertheless, his judgment of the conduct of Charles is the classic expression of a common contemporary view. Burnet was later to give the sermon at the Coronation of William and Mary, after the Revolution of 1688.

"The King himself showed a calm and a composed firmness which amazed all people; and that so much the more, because it was not natural to him... it was owing wholly to somewhat within himself that he went through so many indignities with so much true greatness, without disorder or any sort of affectation. Thus, he died greater than he had lived; and showed, which had often been observed of the whole race of the Stuarts, that his bore misfortune better than prosperity."

"His reign, both in peace and war, was a continual succession of errors; so that it did not appear that he had a true judgment of things. He was out of measure set on following his humour, but unreasonably feeble to those whom he trusted, chiefly to the Queen. He had too high a notion of the regal power, and thought that every opposition to it was rebellion. He minded little things too much, and was more concerned in drawing a paper than in fighting a battle."

The great 17th-century issues at the root of the Civil War are not dead; most of them are not even sleeping. When they killed Charles I, the republicans thought and the monarchists feared that was an

end to the monarchy, that there would never again be a King of England. Most people would have been amazed to learn that the monarchy would be restored and would then survive for 350 years.

Yet English republicanism is also still alive. The abolition of the hereditary principle in the House of Lords leaves the monarchy as the only hereditary part of the British constitution. The close link between King and Lords was demonstrated in 1649: the Lords were abolished by Cromwell only five days after the King had been beheaded.

The Civil War was not just an English matter. There were really three civil wars, an English one, an Irish one, and a Scottish one. They had their own character and at every stage, they interacted. Charles would not have had to call a Parliament in 1640 if the Scots had not defeated him in the Second Bishops' War; they had even occupied Newcastle and Durham. He would not have ended in Cromwell's hand if the Scots had not surrendered him in 1646; they sold him for £400,000. As Charles was King of Scotland, this is a transaction of which Scottish historians are still ashamed. From Stratford's administration in Ireland to Cromwell's genocidal suppression of the Irish revolt, Ireland, like Scotland, was essential to the struggle in England. Both these national issues remain unresolved and ominous in 1999.

If Charles had been prepared to hand over powers to Parliament, he could have saved his life, right down to the last months. He was distrustful because he was thought too close to the Roman Catholic European powers; his dominant wife was a French Catholic of Italian descent. The constitutional issues of 1649 included the future of the monar-

chy, the future of the House of Lords, the powers of the House of Commons, relations with Europe and the national independence of Ireland and Scotland. On these issues, men felt passionately enough to kill and to be killed.

All of these are still constitutional issues in 1999: Ireland at least has been a life-and-death issue for most of the past 30 years. They have a fatal energy about them; Europe had the force to split the Conservative Party in the late 20th century, as Ireland split the Liberal Party in the late 19th.

It is natural that parties should form, split and reform around these conflicts. These are the things people care for most in politics. In the 17th century the question of loyalty could be expressed in this way: does one owe loyalty to King or Parliament, to monarchy or to the will of the people? Now the immediate conflict of loyalty is between Europe and Britain, or perhaps between Europe and England; the Eurosceptics say it is a conflict between bureaucracy and democracy.

There is also the conflict between the independent nation and any larger allegiance. Cromwell broke Scotland, politically and militarily, and that provided the basis for the Act of Union, 50 years after his death. Yet Scottish independence is again a growing cause. Even more brutally, Cromwell broke Ireland; it was not for 270 years that Irish independence was regained. These national loyalties cannot be eradicated; in the end the grass grows through the concrete.

When politicians have to deal with these explosive forces, which decide the future of nations and dwarf the ordinary scale of political life, a particular kind of leader is likely to emerge, someone with an immense appetite for power, a capacity for ruthless action, a

soaring confidence in a personal destiny and, quite often, a genius for duplicity. All of these qualities were possessed by Cromwell; none of them by Charles I. Both men were willing enough to deceive, but Cromwell deceived successfully, repeatedly playing off Presbyterians against Independents, Parliament against Army. Charles was an amateur of deception, ever more deeply mistrusted.

Oliver Cromwell was a horrible great man. Charles was a noble, silly, weak King. The Irish still remember and detest Cromwell for his massacres. After 3,000 people had been killed at Drogheda, on Cromwell's orders to take no prisoners, he commented that it was "a righteous judgment of God upon these barbarous wretches". Even the Irish genocide has a modern echo: another military dictator, Augusto Pinochet, is alleged to have killed 3,000 people in Chile. Perhaps we should extradite Cromwell's statue to Spain, rather than leaving it to stand outside the Parliament he purged.

In the 1640s the whole tempo of English politics accelerated, as it did in France after 1789, or in Russia after 1917. Leaders emerged, proved inadequate and were swept aside. Some could survive the floodtide of events for a year or two, only to disappear. The weak King had chance after chance to avoid the catastrophe. He could take none of them. In the end, it was the strong man, who saw himself as the man of destiny, who prevailed. Yet at an unforgivable price in blood.

No one supposes that Britain, at the end of the 20th century, is about to experience another revolution. But the issues which confront British politicians are again revolutionary ones, the break-up of the United Kingdom, integration with Europe, the shift of sovereignty away from the House of Commons. The social situation is not revolutionary, or even pre-revolutionary, but these constitutional issues have an energy which can destroy the calculations of rational politics. In the coming years, we shall see who can breast this tide. He will need to be much more of a Cromwell than a Charles; he will need to be better at fighting battles than at crafting papers.

comment@the-times.co.uk



William Rees-Mogg

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Prime sauce

FIRST we have Jeremy Clarkson as Tory transport spokesman; now a cookery presenter is advising the Government on the arts. Loyd Grossman, who draws affectedly on *Masterchef*, *Through the Keyhole* and other television epics, will sit on a new Design Group examining the future of libraries and museums. The move follows news that Clarkson will be hired to rail about the Government's roads policies. Grossman will help Chris Smith, Culture Secretary, to "promote wider access" to archives and collections. Smith must have been attracted by Grossman's work advertising pasta sauce.

YOKO ONO has been making peace, not war, with the Leasons. Inga Pedersen, adopted out of Lennon's family shortly after her birth, was omitted from the singer's will. Now Yoko — who has a bracing relationship with most of his clan — is keeping Inga sweet by sending her food hampers.

Boot camp

GAZZA could be going up to university. Johan Cruyff, the former Dutch international footballer, is setting up a college for ageing sports stars, designed to guide them away from the "George Best retirement route". Cruyff (pictured left) wants to help them over the "black hole" which opens when



they run out of puff: his Netherlands centre will offer courses in marketing, management and sports journalism, and Gascogne, 31 (right), is an ideal Freshers. Says my source at the university: "It will keep him out of trouble — if he avoids the student bar."

Grandee back-scratching. Lord Goodman and Lord Kinnin, the moustachioed bouncer, took care of each other. Goodman, the late political fixer accused of plundering Viscount Portman's fortune, helped Kinnin to fend off a takeover bid for his merchant bank in the late Eighties; Kinnin returned the favour by paying the rent on his Portman Place flat until Goodman's death in 1995.

Sit Vac

OUR most prominent female bar-rister is fighting the Foreign Office for money. Baroness Kennedy of the Shaws chairs the British Council, and wants to award a fat-cat salary to its next Director-General: the FCO, which gives the council £133 million a year, is resisting. The DG's job has lain vacant since David Drayner resigned in November (Helen slapped him down



after he tried to remove the senior board of management) and she wants to "reward experience" with £120,000 a year. The FCO is wary. Says my mole: "Anything over £100,000 is excessive."

SNP spinners have an apt spot to stake their thirst. The party's media centre in Edinburgh is next to Fibber Meggs's pub, named after "someone who never told the truth and always had a tale".

Lifer

TOFFS by the back door. The editor of *Burke's Peerage* applauds Tony Blair for keeping Europe's oldest traceable family in the Lords: Onora O'Neill, the Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge, who was recently created a life peer, can trace her lineage back, through the High Kings of Ireland, to AD360. "The O'Neills are descended from Eochu Mugreder, King of Tara," gushes Charles Mosley. "This good to see new Labour giving our older families seats."

JASPER GERARD

'This is a God-forgotten place,' the Russians are fond of saying, and it is sometimes hard to disagree with them

Russia has been famous for many centuries as one of the world's worst offenders as far as almost every kind of human degradation goes. Travelers as far back as the 10th century have described Russians as animals and have been terrified by Russians' inhumanity to Russian. Konrad Bussow, a German merchant living in Moscow, wrote awe-stricken of the horrors of the 1601-04 famine. This period was one of the many in Russian history known as "the time of troubles", but how troublesome does a time have to be for people to abandon the very features that make them human?

"But I swear by God that in Moscow I saw, with my own eyes, people who rolled in the streets and, like animals, ate grass during the summer and hay during the winter. Some of those who died had hay as well as human excrement in their

mouths. Parents killed, prepared, and cooked many of their children; children did the same with their parents; hosts with visitors; and visitors with hosts," wrote Bussow.

Admittedly things are not quite as bad as this today, but the tabloid press is nonetheless full of tales of barely human deeds, of people who seem to have lost not only their moral values but their very animal instincts.

There are mothers ordering contract killing of their sons, prisoners intentionally infecting each other with tuberculosis and people attempting to sell their unwanted children for dollars. In an experiment with gorillas, some American sadists discovered that if one heats the floor under a mother's feet, she will eventually stand on her child to relieve herself of the pain. Some of those who died had hay as well as human excrement in their

I met a Russian Jeremy Paxman-type person last week who was in a despairing mood about his country. "I mean, almost all animals have it in them to look after their children and to preserve themselves. We seem unable even to manage that," he sighed. Although thought of as a witty and irreverent character by his viewers, this man uses his humour for a purpose — to prick the pomposity of the politicians he singles out for derision and to highlight the desperate problems of his compatriots. In life, he is serious and genuinely downcast at the state of his motherland.

In some Russian prisons up to two thirds of the inmates suffer from TB. Everybody here knows

about it, heads are shaken, eyes are rolled and foreheads are stroked by exasperated hands. This is all quite bad enough, obviously, but now prisoners have begun selling the disease to each other in order to wheedle preferential treatment (by what means, exactly, they infect each other, God knows). "Seriously," nodded the charismatic television presenter who had brought it up, "it's awful, but it's true. We did a piece about it."



Anna Blundy

The situation in Russian prisons is so Dickensianly appalling that the idea of trying to get ill on top of the basic problem of trying to survive even in perfect health is unthinkable. "This is a god-forgotten place," Russians are fond

of saying, and it is sometimes hard to disagree.

Last week yet another heart-wrenching tale of economic hardship in a moral vacuum popped up — that of a young couple apprehended in the process of selling a baby boy for \$6,500. Yulya Melnikova, 22, and her boyfriend had actually gone all the way from Moscow to Vladimir to collect Melnikova's baby son from the grindingly depressing orphanage in which she had placed him at birth. She feigned a change of heart and love for her baby and he spent a few days with his mother before she brought him to Moscow, where a 38-year-old male buyer, and thankfully the police, awaited him.

The sale and attempted sale of babies is by no means rare in Russia, and little Roman, Melnikova's son, is now a resident of Moscow Children's Home No. 6

where he is the third nearly-sold baby taken in over the past year.

In Russia's nightmarish orphanages, which house more than 200,000 children, more than 90 per cent of children have one or both parents living — people who voluntarily give up their own children to institutions so awful that an estimated one million Russian children prefer to live on the streets.

Westerners like to blame this country's ills on Communism, but Captain Richard Chancellor attests to the fact that Russia and her people have had it had much longer than that. In 1533, having arrived in Russia by accident, Chancellor made his way to Ivan the Terrible's Moscow. Afterwards he wrote: "In my opinion there are no such people under the sun for their hardness of living." Nothing has changed.

comment@the-times.co.uk



LET BATTLE BEGIN

Liberal Democrats cannot suspend an election for five months

There will have been many anxious telephone conversations among top Liberal Democrats this weekend, even if silence has been maintained in public. It is a tribute to Paddy Ashdown that there are now seven possible contenders considering a bid to replace him. This is more than the total number of Liberals elected to the House of Commons as recently as 1970. But the manner in which this contest is conducted is far less commendable. The candidates are supposed to make no formal announcement and avoid any personal campaigning until after the results of the elections for the European Parliament are declared in 20 weeks' time. This would be odd in any circumstances. For a party that prides itself on democratic participation it is ridiculous.

The original desire to defer debate is not entirely illogical. The Liberal Democrats are a relatively small organisation and depend upon a limited number of activists. Those resources will be stretched fighting local elections in England, seeking seats in the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly, all of which will be swiftly followed by the European Parliament ballot. The distraction of a full-blown leadership battle could, it is feared, redeploy manpower and energy at the expense of their electoral prospects. It might also prove a divisive struggle that damages the party's image in the country.

There are, though, more persuasive reasons why Liberal Democrats would be wise to end the phoney war and let their contest commence in earnest. The first is one of simple practicality. Every act and word of the prospective candidates will be analysed over the next few months for some wider meaning. It will hardly help Liberal Democrats at the polls if party luminaries are obliged to be deliberately bland in order to suppress speculation. Shadow campaign organisations will inevitably need to be established and it will be impossible for them to function in secret.

There are also positive virtues for the Liberal Democrats in a lively if lengthy leadership engagement. It will provide plentiful publicity for a party which often complains that it is neglected by the media. As the entire rank-and-file is permitted to choose Mr Ashdown's successor, a membership increase on some large scale might be expected. This would have the further advantage of enhancing party coffers. All this should help in the elections.

There is also a wider issue of public interest. The central question facing Liberal Democrats today is their relationship with the Labour Party. Voters are entitled to know when they cast their ballots this spring whether Mr Ashdown's *entente* with Tony Blair will continue much as before, be reduced in intensity or abandoned completely. Some voters will approve of the Ashdown-Blair pact and be inclined to back the party on that basis. Others who voted for Labour in 1997 might sense that it renders support for the Liberal Democrats, in protest at some aspect of government policy since then, redundant.

Unless candidates are allowed to set out their stalls it will be impossible to make any estimate of the direction that the Liberal Democrats may be taking. Should a six-month leadership contest be deemed excessive there is an alternative. If Mr Ashdown's resignation were made effective immediately, the entire race for his crown could be completed in six weeks, ending well before the May elections. A fresh figure rather than a lame duck would take the Liberal Democrats into those forays. The first months of Mr Ashdown's leadership were marred by an embarrassing argument over the name of his new party. It would be unfortunate if the last months of his tenure were scarred by an equally slapstick system for succession.

GREEN MISCHIEF

If Germany wants an end to nuclear power, it must pay the price

Gerhard Schröder's struggle to forge his Red-Green coalition into a coherent German Government has until now been complicated more by the Reds, in the restive person of his left-wing rival Oskar Lafontaine, than by the once untameable Greens. Herr Lafontaine's frankly socialist ambitions have seriously embarrassed a Chancellor anxious to pose as a centrist friendly to business. In the heart of the new German politics, Joschka Fischer, the Greens' leader, has until now behaved commendably by contrast, repaying Herr Schröder's trust and the award of the Foreign Minister's portfolio by muffling his hostility to Nato and enthusiasm for a United States of Europe in a blanket of consensual discretion. The illusion that all was quiet on the Green front may explain why Herr Schröder should seemingly have sleepwalked into a Green ambush over nuclear power.

The Greens, determined to rid Germany of the nuclear power which produces 35 per cent of its energy, have started with a law banning all recycling of German nuclear waste by January 2000. Because this processing is done not in Germany, but by France's Cogema and by British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), that means cancelling contracts with these companies worth £3 billion and £1.2 billion respectively.

Herr Schröder has little enthusiasm for the Greens' anti-nuclear crusade, and no wonder. Shutting down Germany's 19 nuclear plants, most of which have 40 years of safe life in them, is likely to cost £30 billion and 150,000 jobs. That is why Herr Schröder hopes to phase it over 20 to 40 years, not by 2004 as the Greens demand. Nuclear fuel is unpopular in Germany; but so will be the price to taxpayers of decommissioning. The move is also environmentally unsound; cost-effective alternatives to nuclear energy will

increase the emissions of "greenhouse gases" that Germany is obliged under international treaties to reduce. Germany has no national waste management plan and its plants cannot build secure storage dumps by next January's deadline. To take back the 3,800 tonnes of waste treated in France, plus 30 tonnes of plutonium fuel, will require 40 convoys trundling across Germany. These are the shipments that, in opposition, Greens fought pitched battles to stop. Germany could also have to take back 650 tonnes of treated and untreated nuclear waste from BNFL.

These problems are Germany's business; but its decision to end nuclear reprocessing damages French and British interests too. Germany refuses to accept liability for breach of contract. The Green Environment Minister claims that Germany is absolved by the "act of God" of having changed governments and laws. This displays little more respect for legal principles than the slogan "might is right", which Germany of all countries ought to wish buried deeper than the most toxic wastes.

Herr Schröder's claim last week to have read the contracts and found "no cause" for damage claims by companies or governments is unconvincing. Germany's contractual obligations are clear, and onerous. "Sale or return" clauses have been written into the commercial contracts, which are backed by intergovernmental accords which the furious French rightly insist are tantamount to treaties. To hold his coalition together, Herr Schröder may have felt obliged to give way to the Greens. He will pay dearly at home as the consequences become plain. Nor can he escape the international consequences. Backing their industries, Britain and France should insist on exacting every penny that is due.

666 AND ALL THAT

Most people will prefer the Devil they know

"If I were a painter," mused William Congreve, "I would draw the Devil like an idiot, a driveller with a bib and bell." Such illustrations will no longer find favour in the Roman Catholic Church. Just days after the Vatican declared that God is "not to be imagined as an old man with a flowing beard", Rome believes it is now time to remould the Devil's image. Out goes all references to Beelzebub, the Foul Spirit, the Accursed Dragon or the Master of Deceit. In comes a "more subtle and sophisticated" definition, which recognises that the force of evil lurks in all individuals.

Under various names — the fallen angel, the Lord of Flies, the Lord of Dung, Lucifer — the Devil has been trying to tempt man to reject the way of life and redemption and accept the way of death and destruction. In Genesis, Satan is portrayed as the serpent, tempter of mankind. St Peter warned the Christians of "a roaring lion", while Martin Luther cautioned people to beware of "a silly sheep". At other times in his diabolical career, Old Harry has been depicted as a woodpecker, a blackbird, a leopard and a series of numerals — the most popular being Hell's emergency number, 666. Yet the attributes of the Devil most people recognise were appropriated from Greek gods. Satan was given Pan's

horns, cloven hoofs, tail and hairy lower body, and Poseidon's trident, and took over Hades's role as Prince of Darkness.

There was good reason to give evil a face. People found it easier to understand and accept an idea when it was manifested in either in animal or human form, rather than expressed as a vague, abstract notion. Hieronymus Bosch's painting of a monster with flaming hair who gobbles up human beings, or Signorelli's grey-skinned creature with a single horn squashing a woman, have a simple aim: to terrify people about the Devil's intentions.

Attempts to reduce the Archfiend to a modern medical concept of "psychological disturbance" are destined to fail. At the end of the 20th century, Lucifer is engrained in popular culture. There is the Devil's dozen, snuffbox, nostrils, four-poster, candlestick, shoestrings and punchbowl. At the last election, Demon Eyes peered down from Conservative election posters, trying to scare voters away from the Prince of Darkness's party. The forces of good are still fighting the powers of evil — Darth Vader, Blofeld, the Joker, none of whom is the "subtle" definition of evil that Rome now endorses. The Vatican may try to give evil a make-over but most people will prefer the Devil they know.

Caution needed in witness protection

From Mr Jon Holbrook

Sir, The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill, now in its committee stage in the Lords, proposes to protect "vulnerable and intimidated witnesses". Much of the clamour for legislation on this issue stems from Julia Mason's lengthy cross-examination by the man who raped her, Ralston Edwards (reports and leading article, August 23, 1996).

In the two and a half years since that celebrated trial hardly any instances of witness intimidation have reached a victim-friendly media. By contrast, the media have been full of cases where witnesses have either lied or been mistaken. Today you report the conviction of a jealous woman who made false rape allegations against six men, and Jonathan Aitken's admission of perjury.

In her letter of January 18, supporting the Bill, Helen Reeves (Director of Victim Support) does not complain about actual witness intimidation. Rather, she refers to witnesses' "perceptions" of the court process. Honest witnesses have little to fear in discharging their public duty by going to court.

The Lords could help get this message across if they threw out those parts of the Bill that seek to protect vulnerable witnesses. Fears grow if they are fed; they shrink if they are challenged.

Yours faithfully,
JON HOLBROOK,
Freedom & Law,
Worldwide Centre,
14 Theobalds Road, WC1X 8PF.
j.holbrook@ednet.co.uk
January 20.

From Mr R. W. Farrington, JP

Sir, Ms Helen Reeves would seem to believe that when a woman says she has been raped there should be a presumption that she is telling the truth, which may be tantamount to presuming the guilt of the man charged.

All the special arrangements she advocates are open to a glaring objection, that they will suggest to a jury that the alleged victim has indeed suffered what it is claimed she has suffered. But it is just this that the jury has to decide.

Are we content to slip towards a position in which men charged with rape have to prove their innocence?

Yours truly,
ROGER FARRINGTON,
77 Marsham Court,
Marsham Street, SW1P 4LA.
January 18.

Millennium flights

From Mr Maurice Fitzpatrick

Sir, Your leader of January 16, "In the millennium hot seat, applauds the insistence by the Chinese Government that senior personnel of the state airline should book themselves on flights straddling the end of the millennium, as an incentive to protect their planes against crashing as a result of the millennium bug (see also letter, January 20). You suggest that Western airlines might do the same.

Such a drastic measure is unlikely to prove necessary since I suspect that few Western airlines will be putting planes in the sky over that period. Even if they were prepared to put passengers' lives at risk (which they are not), such flights would effectively be bereft of full insurance cover.

Some airline insurance companies have already made it clear that their cover will exclude the most common claims, such as the loss of baggage, arising from the consequential effects of the bug (report, December 28, 1998). Their justification is entirely logical: insurance covers unforeseeable risks, of which the bug is not one.

Unless these problems can be solved, it seems likely that many aircraft will be grounded for a period of unknown length, straddling the arrival of the new millennium. Airlines might like to clarify their bookings policy during that period.

Yours faithfully,
M. C. FITZPATRICK,
Head of Economics,
Chantry Vellacon DFK,
Russell Square House,
10-12 Russell Square, WC1B 5LF.
January 21.

Legal aid reforms

From the Lord Chancellor

Sir, The President of the Law Society ("Cash limit will affect quality of legal aid", Law, January 19) expresses fears that civil legal aid reforms will result in an unacceptable restriction in public choice of legal aid solicitors. Such fears are unfounded.

Today any solicitor, whether he has the expertise or not, can run a case on legal aid from beginning to end. The point of my reforms is to give people on legal aid a choice from among about 3,000 quality-assured firms. That compares with the 4,987 offices today which do 92 per cent of legal aid work in value, about 40 per cent of which are not quality-assured.

I would sooner have legal aid with an assurance of quality than a slightly wider choice without.

Yours sincerely,
IRVINE LAIRD,
House of Lords.
January 21.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Practice and theory for nursing

From the Chair of the Royal College of Nursing Council

Sir, In his argument for a separate college of practical nursing (letter, January 19; see also letters, January 12) Dr Max Gammon criticises "the heavily academic bias" of current nursing education. In fact, 90 per cent of student nurses study for a higher education diploma and split their time equally between practice and theory. In pre-diploma days the divide was 60 per cent practice, 40 per cent theory.

The introduction of the diploma saw no increase in minimum entry requirements. Increasingly people enter nursing education with vocational qualifications: NVQ/SVQ level 3 or GNVQ advanced, both equivalent to five GCSEs. Many mature students require no formal qualifications.

The diploma was introduced ten years ago because of high dropout rates from nurse training. It was also prompted by the need for nursing education to reflect changes in health-care. Today over a quarter of nurses work in the community and, given the drive towards primary care, that proportion is likely to increase.

Hospitals are also changing, with patients staying for much shorter periods and therefore demanding a higher intensity of specialised nursing care. Nurses in my own field of day-care services need a breadth of knowledge to enable them to practise both in hospitals and the community.

Difficulties exist with the current system, of course. The RCN wants better support for students when they are on placements in hospitals or in the community. Steps must also be taken to ensure that nursing students have acquired all the necessary skills on completion of their course. But simply to call for a return to the old days is unhelpful.

Yours faithfully,
DEBBIE MURDOCK,
Chair, RCN Council,
Royal College of Nursing,
20 Cavendish Square, W1M 0AB.
January 20.

From Lord Jenkin of Roding and Dr Sir Gerard Vaughan

Sir, We were ministers at the then Department of Health and Social Security when the foundations for what became Project 2000 were laid in the early 1980s, following legislation passed before the 1979 election.

The Briggs report had spelt out the inadequacies of the then existing system of nurse training, which relied on large numbers of nursing students on hospital wards, many, indeed most of whom were little more than cheap

labour. Their academic education was patchy and too few went on to gain degree, or degree-equivalent, qualifications.

Today's picture is very different, mainly because the needs of the NHS have changed. Far more emphasis is now given to primary care: in 1977 there were only 1,500 nurses working in GPs' surgeries; by 1996 the figure had risen to 18,000. So of course there is more training in the community and less in hospitals.

For those who work in hospitals, shorter patient stays mean more pressure on staff and there has been a steady call for more clinical responsibility to be given to nurses, leaving doctors free to concentrate on the most seriously ill patients.

Project 2000 has therefore tilted the balance towards more education on academic subjects with less time for learning practical skills. Yet this must not be exaggerated: the balance today is about 50:50 compared with 60 (practical) 40 (theory) pre-Project 2000.

In the light of this we view with some dismay the suggestion by the Secretary of State for Health (report, January 16) that the clock should be put back. This seems to have surfaced in the wake of recent winter pressures on the service, with no regard to the review of nurse education led by the UK Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, due to report in the autumn. Nurse education is too important for knee-jerk reactions.

Yours etc,
PATRICK JENKIN,
GERARD VAUGHAN,
28 Ponsonby Terrace, SW1P 4QA.
January 20.

From Mr Stephen Timmons

Sir, Frank Dobson believes that the academic component of nurse education is putting potential applicants off. Yet the figures you quote suggest the opposite. Degree courses are oversubscribed, while diploma places are unfilled. Five GCSEs (or equivalent) are required to enter a diploma course. Applicants who do not have these can take an aptitude test.

Are poor pay and working conditions far more of a disincentive than academic requirements?

Yours,
STEPHEN TIMMONS,
Senior Lecturer, Healthcare Practice,
Anglia University,
12 River Mead, Bocking,
Braintree, Essex CM7 9AX.
s.timmons@anglia.ac.uk
January 18.

He worked professionally for Hugh Gaitskell. His dealings with Harold Wilson were unhappy. But he worked unpaid for Sir Alec Douglas-Home when asked to undertake tiresome but important negotiations over Rhodesia.

Above all, he is accused by his detractors of dishonesty. He was in fact distinguished in public and private life by his strict fidelity to the truth, his total confidentiality and his scrupulous care in all his dealings. This was the basis of all his many influential relationships.

No doubt, like the rest of us, he made mistakes. In the latter part of his life he made more mistakes. But when the details of whatever muddle he may have become involved in in his last years are revealed, they seem highly unlikely to have any serious effect on his great and real reputation, which this rather cowardly posthumous attack seems intended to destroy.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID ASTOR,
24 St Ann's Terrace, NW8 6PJ.
January 22.

Workplace smoking

From Mr Kenneth Torricke-Barton

Sir, Thurrock council's decision (report, January 15) to make smokers work an extra 2½ hours a week to compensate for cigarette breaks is misguided, as well as fashionably draconian.

To prevent wasted time, responsible bosses offer fair workplace smoking policies. Enlightened ones provide facilities to enable people to continue work while smoking. Even the White Paper on tobacco, *Smoking Kills*, published in December 1998, advises against workplace smoking bans, with the Government committed to a code of practice that will accommodate smokers.

As Thurrock council chose to ban smoking, it should compensate smokers for the inconvenience of standing outside instead of penalising them with longer hours.

Yours truly,
K. TORRICKE-BARTON
(Co-ordinator,
Fair Cigarette Tax Campaign),
Deakin Leas,
Tonbridge, Kent TN9 2JT.
January 15.

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Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Sentenced soldiers continue to serve

From Mrs Jean McBride

Sir, On Friday January 15 you carried a report on a former British soldier, Clive Sutton, who was discharged from the Army following a court case which found that he had killed two pedestrians while drunk-driving. In 1993 he was sentenced to four years' jail.

On September 4, 1992, my son, 18-year-old Peter McBride, was shot dead by two soldiers, Scots Guards Mark Wright and James Fisher. They were sentenced to life imprisonment by a Belfast court but were granted early release in September 1998. Despite the murder convictions they were not discharged from the Army and remain serving soldiers.

For some time I have sought information from the Minister of State for the Armed Forces as to why two men convicted in a court of law of murder have been allowed to rejoin their regiment. The minister has yet to give a proper explanation to my family.

A soldier convicted of a drunk-driving incident involving loss of life is discharged. Two soldiers convicted of murder are allowed to continue serving in their regiment. Some lives are clearly worth less than others, despite the judgment of a court of law.

Yours,
JEAN MCBRIDE,
Flat 5b, Maevae House,
Belfast BT15 2EU.
January 20.

Orchestra finances

From Mr Raymond Gubbay

Sir, It is good to note that the Association of British Orchestras (ABO) has finally woken up to what many of us have known for years, that Covent Garden's ever-increasing Arts Council grant has been gained at the expense of orchestras and other performing arts organisations, many of whose finances are, as you report ("Orchestra fail 'unfair Arts Council'", Arts, January 19), in a highly parlous state.

A period of rehabilitation normally follows expiation of past misdeeds. Yet Covent Garden has been allowed to get away with huge accumulated losses for which no public accountability has ever been made. Not only has the Arts Council failed to make any public statement about what has happened to the £20 million additional grant given to the Royal Opera House to tide it over the two-year closure period; it has given the ROH even more public money, although the Opera House has cancelled most of its current year's work.

ABO members and others can only watch in horror while Covent Garden's avowed continues to cause damage to other rather more modest and better-deserving recipients of government arts funding. Perhaps the orchestras should consider cancelling most of their current seasons, asking their music directors to threaten resignation and encouraging some of their leading players to move *en masse* to Japan. Similar tactics seem to have worked out well for Covent Garden.

Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND GUBBAY,
Raymond Gubbay Limited,
Knight House,
29-31 East Barnet Road,
New Barnet, Hertfordshire EN4 8RN.
January 19.

Chambers wit

From Mrs Janet Welford

Sir, I wonder if any of your readers could tell me whether the entry in Chambers (letters, January 12, 15, 19 and 22) under "taghairm" is a joke or is this normal behaviour for people in the Highlands?

Taghairm: n. (in the Scottish Highlands), divination; esp. inspiration sought by lying in a bullcock's hide behind a waterfall.

Yours faithfully,
JANET WELFORD,
10 Arreton Close, Leicester LE3 2PP.
January 24.

From Dr Adrian Seville

Sir, What is not in Chambers may be an arm.

In the 1960s, the dictionary had not caught up with "miniskirts". The celebrated crossword compiler Nimenes (D. S. Macnutt) therefore clued the word thus:

"They should not be looked up in chambers"

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SEVILLE,
Tudeley House, Royal Parade,
Chislehurst, Kent BR7 6NW.
January 22.

Liquid intake

From Mr James Ashley Cooper

Sir, My mother had a great zest for life and much enjoyed giving and going to parties right up to the end of her 94-year life.

In her latter years her doctor advised her to drink more (letters, January 7, 15 and 21) for some complaint. She replied: "But I don't think I can afford to."

Yours,
JIM A. COOPER,
Hexton Manor,
Nr Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG5 3JH.
e-mail: 100775.17@compuserve.com
January 21.

RS

OBITUARIES

ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET LORD LEWIN

Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, GCB, LVO, DSC, Chief of the Defence Staff, 1979-82, died on January 23 aged 78. He was born on November 19, 1920.

As Chief of the Defence Staff in 1982, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin was a vital professional adviser at the daily meetings of Margaret Thatcher's War Cabinet during the series of military operations that resulted in the recovery of the Falkland Islands after the Argentine invasion. His greatest contributions were his clarity of thought, which helped the politicians to formulate their objectives, and his realism. Because he had seen much action at sea in the Second World War, he was a steady influence when the all-too-frequent bad news from the battle zone rattled the less-experienced members of the War Cabinet.

The state of affairs at that time was that for many years British defence policy had forsaken the intention — and increasingly the capability — to conduct an opposed amphibious landing on an enemy-held territory without the support of allies. Recovery of the Falklands would confront all these things at a range of 8,000 miles from home bases, in worsening seasonal weather, opposed by a modern land-based air force, and with a task force that lacked an airborne early warning radar system. These factors were compounded by a series of complex political issues which had to be resolved successfully by the War Cabinet: if the United Kingdom was to retain the support of the Americans — already bruised in their South American relations — and even more importantly, the authority conferred by United Nations resolutions against

a breach of international order. Throughout the twists and turns of these processes, Lewin was able to secure centralised operational control over the conduct of the military campaign and to operate a surprisingly short and uncomplicated link from the Cabinet through the tri-service headquarters at Northwood to the task force. His profound grasp of the tactical and technical issues enabled him to lobby hard for licence to use the task force to the greatest effect. Supported by the military experience of Admiral Sir Michael Havers, he was able authoritatively to advocate the specific rules of engagement which, while allowing for the political necessities, would enable the task force to protect itself and to carry out its mission.

Despite worries about the diversion of resources, Lewin proposed an early retaking of South Georgia as a contribution to graduated pressure on the Argentine junta as well as a useful test of naval competence. His iron nerves were never needed as much as when this initial operation, meeting extreme weather, nearly came to grief among the waters and glaciers of Grytviken. The historical evidence on the rest of the campaign, including Lewin's post-conflict appearances before House of Commons select committees, attests to his wise judgment of such vexed questions as the contradictory Total Exclusion Zone and the sinking of the Argentine cruiser *General Belgrano*.

Terence Thornton Lewin entered the Royal Navy in 1939 from the Judd School at Tonbridge. His first wartime seagoing appointment was as a midshipman in the battleship *Valiant* where he experienced several of the early battles of the Mediterranean campaign. In

January 1942 he joined the Tribal class destroyer *Ashanti* as the gunnery officer and during the next two years as a sub-lieutenant and young lieutenant was mentioned in dispatches three times and awarded a DSC.

In early 1942 *Ashanti* accompanied two Arctic convoys to Murmansk before being diverted to the Mediterranean in August of that year to take part in Operation Pedestal, the hardest-fought of the series of convoys to Malta. Back in the Arctic in September, *Ashanti* was part of a large "fighting escort" of 16 destroyers protecting convoys PQ18 and PQ14 to and from Murmansk. PQ14 contained ships that had survived the tragic scattering and destruction of the previous PQ17 convoy. Of the 40 ships that set out, 13 were sunk by U-boats and massed dive-bombers. The destroyer *Somali* was damaged and taken in tow by *Ashanti* but after a long, slow and hazardous voyage a violent storm caused *Somali* suddenly to break up and sink with the loss of 35 of her 80 remaining crew.

During 1943 and up to the D-Day landings in June 1944, *Ashanti* distinguished herself in a number of brisk night actions against German convoys and their escorts in the English Channel. As part of the western covering force during the D-Day campaign, *Ashanti* sank with torpedoes one of four German destroyers which had sailed out from Brest to try to disrupt the invasion.

After the war Lewin held a number of seagoing posts. He passed the Staff Course and then commanded the destroyer *Coruna* with distinction. He was always a keen sportsman and represented the Royal Navy at athletics and rugby. He was appointed LVO after a



Lewin: vital role during the Falklands conflict of 1982

tour as second-in-command of the Royal Yacht *Briannia*.

In the rank of captain, he commanded the Dartmouth Training Squadron and subsequently the aircraft carrier *Hermes* in the Indian Ocean at the time of the 1967 Arab-Israeli Six-Day War and the withdrawal from Aden in 1967-68.

This was an arduous period of duty during which high morale and outstanding operational performance on board the aircraft carrier were maintained by Lewin's particular brand of humane leadership.

Promoted rear-admiral in 1968, he was successively appointed Assistant Chief of Naval Staff

(Policy), Second-in-Command of Far East Fleet and Vice-Chief of Naval Staff before becoming, in 1973, C-in-C Fleet, in 1975 C-in-C Naval Home Command and then, in 1977, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff. He was appointed KCB in 1973 and GCB in 1976.

The perennial postwar difficulty of matching defence resources to commitments was particularly severe during Lewin's tenure as First Sea Lord, but he was able to initiate a series of "group deployments", intending, as he put it, "to preserve worldwide expertise among our officers and men and the chance to exercise with non-Nato navies, rather than become mesmerised by the Eastern Atlantic". His greatest achievement was to preserve this worldwide capability in spite of a political climate that called for withdrawal from overseas commitments and a reduction to what were seen as Nato essentials.

As Chief of Defence Staff Lewin was heavily involved with the decision to replace the Polaris-based strategic deterrent with the Trident missile system.

His tri-service impartiality was much tested by the review, instituted by the Secretary of State for Defence, John Nott, in 1981, which again tried to match a realistic defence programme to the budget.

The review's most contentious strategic proposal was to inflict wholesale reductions on the Navy's surface fleet.

These decisions were fortunately reversed by the Falklands War and the realisation that navies have an inherent flexibility which may not be revealed by accountants' scenario-based analysis.

Nevertheless, Lewin's experience led him to strengthen the position of the Chief of Defence Staff, who thereafter would not be constitutionally bound to offer

ministers the consensus opinion of the three Service chiefs, but give his own defence advice, as has been done during the Falklands conflict.

People who worked for and with Terry Lewin uniformly remarked on his acute intellect, his concentration on essentials and his impeccable judgment, but he was also widely known for his great courtesy towards all ranks. He never, as it is all too easy to do in moments of great stress, lost his temper or his self-control. Another great strength was that he always accorded respect and attention to the views of others, irrespective of their ultimate value.

In retirement Lewin brought these qualities to bear on a number of charitable and other works. His great enthusiasm was for the naval history of the 18th century and he was an acknowledged authority on the achievements of Captain James Cook in particular. As a trustee of the National Maritime Museum and subsequently as chairman from 1987, Lewin put his weight behind a successful £12 million English Heritage lottery bid and was instrumental in driving forward a radical modernisation programme affecting not only the use and repair of the buildings but the mounting of major exhibitions all over the world.

Among his other activities, he was president of the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Benevolent Society, the George Cross Island Association and a council member of the White Ensign Association. He was an Elder Brother of Trinity House from 1975. Lewin was created a life peer 1982 and appointed KG in 1983.

He is survived by his wife Jane Branch-Evans, whom he married in 1944 when she was serving in the Wrens, and by their two sons and daughter.

LESLIE FRENCH

Leslie French, actor and director, died on January 21 aged 94. He was born on April 23, 1904.

AMONG audiences who were fortunate enough to see him over a long stage career, which had begun in the Twenties and carried on well into the Seventies, not to speak of the television work he did in the Eighties, Leslie French will be remembered especially for three Shakespearean performances: Puck, Ariel, and Feste. These, at the apogee of his career, were considered to be definitive. In particular, his Ariel was, when first seen in 1922, daring in the extreme in its near-nakedness (which drew protests from some quarters) and in the fact that it was the first time a man had played the part since Victorian times. It was a performance which, in 1931, inspired Eric Gill to create his sculpture of Prospero and Ariel for the facade of the newly opened Broadcasting House in Portland Place, a work in which the undraped contours of Ariel were modelled on those of the youthful French.

Critics also praised him for his performance as the Attendant Spirit in *Midnight Comets*. It was a part he played often during the 1930s, since Milton's masque, directed by Robert Atkins, was generally to be found in the repertoire of the Regent's Park Open Air Theatre.

Expert as singer and dancer, French trained himself in the Ben Greet touring companies where, from extreme youth, he showed an innate sense of poetry and a quick response to Shakespeare. He was a small, lithe, often impish figure with an uncommon nimbleness of wit and movement. After leaving Greet he often had to waste these qualities on routine musical comedy.

His high moment came during an engagement for a single Old Vic production in the winter of 1929. Then, in partnership with John Gielgud's Oberon, he appeared as Puck of irresistible mooncast mischief, remembered for its absolute fidelity to Shakespeare and for the



French and the BBC sculpture of Ariel which he inspired

spoils-child intonation of "I go, I go: look how I go!" when ordered to be "faster than the wind". Later he had a complete 'Vic season, and soon afterwards began the Regent's Park period that for several seasons exercised all his gifts to their full. Harcourt Williams wrote of his Puck: "He put the Vic audiences for ever in his pocket."

Leslie French was born at Bromley, Kent. He was a boy singer from the age of ten before joining Ben Greet in 1918 at the age of 14 and remaining with the company for six years. Later, with a sound grounding of Shakespeare behind him, he did some musicals, and was particularly fond of playing Astor, a part he always recalled affectionately, in a musical version of *The Beloved Vagabond* (Duke of York's, 1927).

But it was during his eight months at the Old Vic in 1930-31 that he had a real chance to use his fun, vocal clarity, and, when needed, his wit and other-worldliness. He was, principally, Feste (at the opening of *Sadler's Wells*) and Ariel, Eros (in *Antony and Cleopatra*), and — playing to John Gielgud — the Fool in *King Lear*.

After leaving the Old Vic French played in A. P. Herbert's operetta, *Derby Day*, at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and

Royal Court in 1935, and sought earnestly to emulate Richard III.

Much of his later career he occupied in directing Shakespeare at various places, notably in South Africa where he had a considerable impact on the theatre through his founding Maynardville, an open air theatre in Cape Town, in the 1950s. This arose from an invitation he received from two South African actresses, Celia Somburg and Rene Ahrens, who asked him to go there and do an outdoor *The Taming of the Shrew* for them. Shortly before he was due to sail French received a paralytic telegram from the pair saying: "Got cold feet. don't come!" Nothing deterred, he telegraphed back: "Buy a hot-water bottle" and continued with his passage.

There followed a succession of triumphs in Cape Town where, besides Puck, Touchstone and roles normally associated with him, he tackled less likely parts such as Duncan and Shylock. His production of *The Merchant of Venice* broke all box office records for South Africa at that time and he also directed in the open air at Port Elizabeth, and at theatres in Bloemfontein and Welkom, a small Orange Free State town to the north of Bloemfontein, where he opened the Ernest Oppenheimer Theatre in 1968 with a production of *The Tempest*. His casts and audiences at Maynardville were always multicultural and he was the mentor and teacher of many generations of young actors and actresses to whom he imparted his abiding love of Shakespeare.

In Britain his later productions included *Twelfth Night* in the Great Hall at Hampton Court in 1964, with himself as Feste. A thorough professional, he broadcast and acted in films and on television, his last role being as the ailing Noddy in a TV version of Dennis Potter's *The Singing Detective* in 1966. But he really belonged to the theatre and especially to the plays and parts that were for so long associated with his performance of them.

Leslie French was unmarried.

JOHN GOLDING

John Golding, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, 1969-86, died on January 20 aged 67 from complications following a heart operation. He was born on March 9, 1931.

JOHN GOLDING was the largely forgotten sergeant major in Labour's long march back to electoral respectability and power. After the defeat of James Callaghan and Michael Foot, he rallied the right-wing troops in the Commons, recaptured Labour's national executive from the Left, helped to drive the Militant Tendency from the party and was a powerful Kinnock ally in the early attempts at modernisation.

Golding was a short, scruffy man who was happy to receive a newspaper nomination as the worst-dressed MP in the Commons. But while he would have been out of place in today's new Labour salons, he was in his element in the conspiracies of old Labour's Right.

He was master of every trick in the political trade as his enemies — and he had many — were forced to admit. Even when his left-wing critics seemed to be winning in his

constituency, he left the Commons at a time of his choosing to take a key trade union post, with his second wife Lin succeeding him as MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme.

John Golding was born in Birmingham, where his father was working as a chef. After primary education he went to Chester Grammar School, which he left at 16 to become a Civil Service clerk. He had joined the Labour Party while at school and he was soon active in the trade union movement.

As a result the Post Office Engineering Union made him a researcher, sent him to the London School of Economics and then appointed him education officer. Although he was sponsored by his union, he failed in several attempts to obtain a seat until a by-election at Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1969. This was caused by the death of Stephen Swinger, regarded by some as a one-time fellow-traveller, but the right-wing Golding had no difficulty in obtaining the nomination in a trade union-dominated selection conference. It was then that he met Linos Lewis, daughter of Ness Edwards, Attlee's Postmaster-General, who was his campaign driver.

Both were married with families. Golding since 1988 to Thekla Gwynn. Eleven years later, in 1990, with both marriages dissolved, they were married.

In the Commons Golding



made unusually rapid progress. Almost at once he was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Eric Varley, the Minister for Technology, and after the Wilson defeat became an Opposition Whip. Callaghan gave him a ministerial job as Parliamentary Secretary at the Department of Employment, which

was probably the role he most enjoyed.

But he also had great pleasure in his attempts to delay the privatisation of British Telecom, notably with a speech in committee which lasted for eleven hours and 15 minutes — a record which still stands as the rules were changed to prevent any repetition.

In 1986 he left the Commons aged 55, to become general secretary of the new National Communications Union, formed from the merger between British Telecom's clerical and engineering unions. But two years into his five-year contract, a Sunday paper published allegations about his relations with a prostitute. He refused to comment, to avoid embarrassing his wife, but hostile motions were submitted to his annual conference, where he was asked to resign. Golding refused, as stubborn as ever, but eventually took early retirement after an amicable agreement.

He is survived by his second wife who, as Lin Golding, is still the MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme, and by a son of his previous marriage to Thekla Gwynn. Another son of that marriage predeceased him.

SOLOMON KAUFMAN

Solomon Kaufman, international lawyer, died on Christmas Day aged 90. He was born on May 18, 1908.

SOLOMON KAUFMAN will be remembered particularly as the lawyer in two notable cases. In 1962 he acted for Dr. Robert Soblen, the American spy, and in 1964 he acted for the author Leon Uris.

Soblen was an American citizen convicted of spying for the Russians and sentenced to life imprisonment. He fled to Israel with an invalid passport, only to be arrested in Tel Aviv. Sent back to the United States, he slashed his wrists on the flight over London, forcing the plane to land at Heathrow. There he was refused official entry at immigration, but managed to instruct Kaufman

who, with Lord Elwyn-Jones, applied to a judge in St John's Wood at midnight for a writ of *habeas corpus*, which was granted.

At the High Court, Soblen was refused leave to remain in England. He went to the Court of Appeal, but again lost. While a further appeal was being considered, he committed suicide before he could be deported to America. The case is famous as a deportation case which was a disguised extradition case. In 1964 Kaufman acted for the popular author Leon Uris in defending a libel action brought by Dr. Wladyslaw Dering. The case became known as "Auschwitz in England". Dering complained of a sentence in Uris's bestselling novel about Israel, *Exodus*,

which stated that he had performed 17,000 operations in Auschwitz without anaesthetic, mainly on young women used as guinea-pigs.

The case was unique in that the Polish Government was persuaded to bring to London the Auschwitz hospital operation register, in which were recorded 130 detailed operations for castration, sterilisation, ovariectomy and so on. The register was taken to court every day and returned to the Polish Embassy at night. The register clinched the case. Dr. Dering was awarded one halfpenny damages and had to pay his own costs.

Dering had come to Britain after the war, then worked as a doctor in Somalia before returning to run a practice in Harley Street.

Solomon Kaufman was born in London and educated at the Grocers' School and at University College London, Montpellier, Bonn and Moscow Universities. He qualified as a solicitor in 1935 and founded Kaufman and Seigal in the late 1930s.

In the 1940s he acted for the provisional Israeli government before the end of the Palestinian Mandate. He worked for the same firm until the late 1960s, when he became a consultant to Sackler and Partners.

Kaufman retired in 1970, and later took a doctorate in Italian neo-classical stage design at Essex University.

He married Jennie Lubin in 1936; she died last July. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Latest wills

Lady Ingrow, of Kelghley, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,081,261 net.

She left £1,000 to the Royal British Legion and the Royal Cancer Society and to RNIB, the Polish Soldiers' Trust Society and the Air Bridge Association.

Lady (Cyril) Clarke, of West Kirby, Wirral, Merseyside, left estate valued at £510,085 net.

Lady (Owain) Jenkins, of Penarth, West Sussex, left estate valued at £785,086 net.

She left £1,000 to the PDSA and Camphill Village Trust.

Lady Barnard, of Cranborne, Dorset, left estate valued at £709,218 net.

Lady Margaret Kathleen Dunn, widow of Sir Francis Vivian Dunn, of Haywards Heath, East Sussex, left estate valued at £1,094,042 net.

She left £1,000 to the Foundation Fund of the Muscular Chorea.

She left £1,000 to the Bathers' Benevolent Association and to the National Trust.

Catherine Ness Quested, of Saxehead, Suffolk, left estate valued at £5,767,078 net.

Harry Stanley Smith, of Long Hanborough, Wincor, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £2,035,538 net.

She left £1,000 to All Saints Church, Minstead, Cadnam, Hampshire; £400 each to RNLI, RSPCA and PDSA.

Margaret Frances Charlish, of Windsor, Berkshire, left estate valued at £2,187,697 net.

She left £500 each to Cheshire Homes, Sir Ryder House, Cancer Research Campaign, Marie Curie Memorial Foundation, Ely Cathedral and Prince Charles Eye Unit.

Margaret Elsie Armstrong, of Ipswich, left estate valued at £1,022,262 net.

and Christian Service, Christchurch, Tackler Street United Reformed Church, the Samaritans and the Westminster Pastoral Foundation; £2,000 each to British Council of Churches, St Raphael Club, Ipswich, the World Church Mission Department and the Ipswich and Suffolk Mission to the Deaf and Dumb.

Elis Maribel Batchelor, of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,486,065 net.

Ronald Patrick Clancy, of Bourne End, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,048,919 net.

John Kenneth Frost, of Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, left estate valued at £1,263,738 net.

Ruth Margaret Garside, of Swindon Village, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, left estate valued at £1,582,321 net.

Avriana Grace Gill, of Purley, Surrey, left estate valued at £1,461,092 net.

Joan Frances Mills, of Compton Greenfield, Easter Compton, Bristol left estate valued at £1,260,636 net.

She left £5,000 each to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Parkinson's Disease Society, Blue Cross, PDSA and the Royal UK Beneficent Association.

Peter Moore, of Chesham, Buckinghamshire, left estate valued at £1,812,926 net.

Philip Glynn Morris, of Gilwern, Aberystwyth, left estate valued at £1,460,036 net.

Robert Colin Taylor, of London SW1, left estate valued at £1,356,289 net.

He left £5,000 to Sidmouth Dorset Sanctuary, and the balance of his estate to Imperial Cancer Research Fund, RSPCA, PHAR, and Christian Aid.

Daniel Lyons, of Charlton, London SE7, left estate valued at £1,152,216 net.

THE RUSSIAN OUTBREAK

ST PETERSBURG, JAN. 24 The night passed quietly, and this morning there were no signs of excitement, although thousands of idle workmen were strolling about with their hands in their pockets.

The electric works are now manned by military electricians, and the supply was switched on again at half-past 7 this morning. Nobody is reassured by the temporary lull. Many men are sending their wives and children to Helsingfors and other places of safety.

At 4 o'clock this afternoon, a troop of Cossacks, in dispersing a crowd of working men, drew their swords and wounded several persons.

In consideration of the disturbed state of the city, the officials and employees at the Ministries have been informed that they need not present themselves for duty if they think there is any danger. Consequently many offices are partly empty.

The chemists' assistants have joined the strikers. Work has been suspended at the central station of the Belgian Electrical Company, which furnishes most of the electric light supply of the capital. The electric light

ON THIS DAY

January 25, 1905

The year opened disastrously for Russia with the surrender of its fleet to the Japanese at Port Arthur. On the 22nd — "Bloody Sunday" — troops fired on workers in St Petersburg. The unrest continued, culminating in October when workers forced the first soviet.

has gone out in the fashionable Bolshaisa Moskvaia thoroughfare.

The resources of the strikers are very limited. Only the Narva section of the Workmen's Club, which is the next in importance to the section attached to the Putiloff Works, has as large a sum as 15,000 roubles (£1,500) at its disposal. The sums of money paid to the needy as relief are extremely small. The strike organisation continues to collect subscriptions for the wounded.

So far, no workmen have been arrested.

and the leaders also are still at liberty. A man named Wassilief, who accompanied Father Gapon in the procession on Sunday as a representative of a section of the Workmen's Club, was killed, and three of the priest's assistants, named Usatoff, Tikonoff, and Inosentzoff, were wounded, the last mentioned seriously.

Father Gapon is in hiding. Proclamations, the genuineness of which is, however, doubtful, are being issued in his name...

The following official statement is issued today:

"During the day of January 23 there was no collision between the riotous crowd and the troops. The detachments of soldiers had no need to use their arms, as the crowd dispersed on the appearance of the troops. During the day an attempt was made to attack the Gostiny Dvor market, but was repulsed. The workmen of the electric stations joined the strike in the evening, then some groups, taking advantage of the darkness, began to break the windows of the shops in the different streets; but order was everywhere quickly restored."

"No one was killed or wounded during January 23. The exact number of killed on January 22 is 96, and of wounded 333. 53 of whom have registered at the ambulance stations."

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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT



FIGHTING TALK

Cricket sinks to a new low Down Under
PAGE 27

RUNNING RIOT

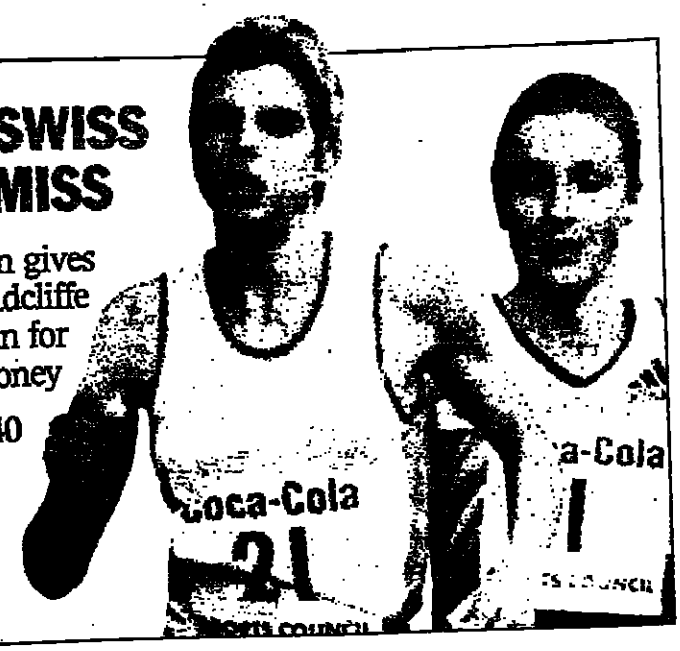
London Irish finding their feet at last
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SWISS MISS

Wayermann gives Radcliffe a run for her money
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TIMES SPORT

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MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

FULHAM LAND PLUM OLD TRAFFORD TIE



Keegan and Ferguson on FA Cup collision course

Matt Dickinson looks forward to a renewal of hostilities at the Theatre of Dreams after a dramatic weekend of knockout fare

MANCHESTER United versus Fulham: Alex Ferguson against Kevin Keegan. The fifth round of the FA Cup, drawn yesterday, will make television — and that is just the managers' pre-match interviews.

As manager of Newcastle United, Keegan was embroiled in some epic personal confrontations with Ferguson, reaching a climax in a famous on-screen outburst against his counterpart. Now the pair can renew old rivalries after a draw that could scarcely have been bettered for romance and intrigue. It will not be long before the psychological bullets are being fired between Craven Cottage and Old Trafford.

How fitting, as well, that the teams involved in the most dramatic games of the weekend should be thrown together. Fulham pulled off the shock of the fourth round when they won 2-0 against Aston Villa on Saturday, their triumph as deserved as it was startling.

Keegan has a five-year plan to lift Fulham from the Nationwide League second division into the FA Cup's Premier League and the trip to Old Trafford should provide a good measure of how far his club has travelled already on its extravagantly funded rise.

Mohamed Al Fayed, the chairman, is the man bank-rolling Fulham in the hope that he will one day be able to mix with the elite and an afternoon in the Old Trafford directors' box may whet his appetite even more. But Fulham will come up against the country's leading strikers in Andy

Cole and Dwight Yorke and the prospect appears to be a daunting one.

"I shouldn't think we will cope at all," Simon Morgan, one of the Fulham goalkeepers at Villa Park, said, "but it will be a great day out. The manager won't let us dream about United and Old Trafford. We have got an important game at home to Oldham on Tuesday and we want to get back on top of the league. That is our priority and we will just want a good true out in Manchester."

They could so easily have been playing Liverpool, though, after a stirring game at Old Trafford yesterday in which United scored in the 88th minute and then injury time to win 2-1. Trailing to Michael Owen's header after just three minutes, they had to dig deep into their reserves as Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjær, with almost his first

touch, finally ended Liverpool's valiant resistance.

"We are not really interested in the FA Cup," Ferguson said sarcastically, in response to those who claim that his side has other priorities. "You can't believe football sometimes, but I believe we deserved what we got because we never gave up. Liverpool defended fantastically and will be gutted, quite rightly, but our sheer determination got us through."

That is the beauty of the FA Cup.

United's relief was palpable. Gary Neville, a Manchester boy who had talked before the match of his dread of defeat to Liverpool, could not contain his delight, whirling around his visiting supporters after Solskjær's late strike.

The Liverpool players, meanwhile, dropped to the turf, some appearing to depart with tears in their eyes at having allowed victory to slip away so late in the game. "I told them they have nothing to be ashamed of," Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, said. "I am proud of them."

Today, we matched Manchester United and a couple of months ago I do not think we would have been capable of a

performance like that. We have to keep improving and moving closer to them in standard, but I know that one day we will beat them."

Bookings for Roy Keane and Paul Scholes ensured that they will be absent against Fulham next month. "It was never dirty," Ferguson said. "Not like when Jimmy Case, Graeme Souness, Whiteside and Robbo were going at each other a few years back. You had to make sure your mummy was sitting beside you then, because you couldn't watch it alone. Today, they just got stuck in."

Urged on by the ebullient Keegan, Fulham will be doing the same. It would be one of the great upsets in recent years were they to repeat their feat of Saturday, but how Keegan — to borrow one of his own phrases — would love it.

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Programme notes, page 35



Harkness, the Liverpool defender, collapses to the turf at the final whistle

- Arsenal v Sheffield United or Cardiff City
 - Wrexham or Huddersfield Town v Derby County
 - Leeds United v Wimbledon or Tottenham Hotspur
 - Barnsley v Bristol Rovers
 - Sheffield Wednesday v Oxford United or Chelsea
 - Everton v Coventry City
 - Newcastle United v Blackburn Rovers
 - Manchester United v Fulham
- Ties to be played on weekend of February 13

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FA Cup: Favourites scrape through at the death as holders make assured progress

Seconds out, round five for United

Manchester United.....2
Liverpool.....1

By Matt Dickinson

ALEX FERGUSON'S tension can normally be measured by the fury of his gum-chewing and, for 88 minutes yesterday, he looked to be in danger of gnawing off his tongue. Time was ebbing away and his Manchester United team could not match the vigour of a wonderfully - and unusually - vociferous Old Trafford crowd.

The plain fact of what happened in those final minutes are that Dwight Yorke and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer scored the goals that knocked Liverpool out of the FA Cup. How and why, though, were the cause of much head-scratching on Merseyside, as the instincts began to a thrilling, if not epic, game.

Tiredness, bad defensive positioning and the referee were cited by Gerard Houllier as the principal reasons, while sheer determination by his own team was Ferguson's straightforward verdict. Both managers were right, but it is United who march forward to the fifth round and their campaign remains alive on three fronts.

For Liverpool, the journey home meant the chance to reflect that they will once again be without silverware, but there was salvation to be found amid the wreckage yesterday. They may not win any honours, but they may yet finish the season with pride under Houllier's increasingly resolute leadership.

Laughed out of Wembley in their cream Arsenal suits the last time that they met United in this competition, yesterday they made their great rivals look like the ones all dressed up with nowhere to go, at least for much of the game.

It was impossible not to feel sympathy for the Liverpool players as they slumped to the ground at the final whistle. So roundly criticised for their indiscipline over recent seasons, they had stuck to orders with regimental regard. From Carragher, splendid at the back, to the efficient Redknapp in midfield and forward to Fowler, who repeatedly dropped back to make impossible tackles, they had, it seemed, replicated Houllier's game-plan to perfection.

At least, they thought they had - and maybe that was the problem. Two late errors and the whole construction collapsed around them, but then that is always the danger when you are facing a side of United's attacking power. When a team can bring on sub-



Owen rises in front of Neville to head Liverpool into an early lead at Old Trafford yesterday, where two late goals won a thrilling FA Cup fourth-round tie for Manchester United

stitutes of the match-changing potential of Scholes and Solskjaer, they can afford to leave things to injury time.

Solskjaer, whose winner came more than a minute into stoppage time (or "Ferguson time", as it is known by his rivals), has now scored more goals this season (11) than he has started games (7). "I'll have to give him more football," Ferguson said. He will need to if the Norwegian is to keep turning down offers such as he has from Tottenham Hotspur and West Ham United recently.

"The game lasted five minutes too long for us," Houllier said. "We had the chance to score a second goal and that could have made the difference."

Liverpool did not have to wait long for the first. The game was only three minutes old when Berger glided past Butt and fed the ball via Redknapp to Heggem. The wing

back sped to the byline, from where he spotted Owen, unmarked, for a simple header.

"God almighty," Ferguson said later, so goodness knows what explosives he let fly about Berg's slackness at the time. "I

wouldn't have thought a 5ft 6in striker would get a header at Old Trafford in the first five minutes."

Ferguson had to wait 20 minutes for his team to conjure much in response, a header by

Keane hitting the post and then Ince on the goal line. It was a rare United cross that found its target, though, as Giggs and Beckham struggled to penetrate. Too many of their centres were chipped from

deep, while Cole and Yorke lacked movement. Perhaps it was the early start.

The tensions were evident in the United bookings, which outnumbered Liverpool's by four to two. Never a vicious game, some of the tackles were still eye-watering, with

Keane's lunge at Redknapp the worst of the bunch.

United's frustration was down to the number of misplaced passes and it was Liverpool who went closest to scoring, with Fowler shooting just

over the bar and Berger forcing an excellent save from Schmeichel at close range.

Liverpool had defended deeply in the first half, but, after the interval, they allowed themselves to be pushed back to the point that they were treading on James's toes.

Gradually, the number of United chances began to increase, with James rushing out of his box to thwart Cole, a shot by Keane deflecting wide



Solskjaer scores United's dramatic late winner through a crowded goalmouth

Petit provides latest blot on Arsenal character

Wolverhampton Wanderers.....1
Arsenal.....2

By Kevin McCarron

FOR the FA Cup, clubs dress themselves in tradition like men donning period costume. The victors were to be draped with the venerable epithet of "Lucky Arsenal", having secured the win with a Dennis Bergkamp shot that hit one Wolverhampton Wanderers player and then Nicolas Anelka, his team-mate, before finding its way home. The Highbury club also displayed some disreputable traits of more recent vintage.

Emmanuel Petit was sent off in the 86th minute for a gesture of dissent at a linesman that brought a straight red card from Steve Dunn, the referee, rather than his second booking. It was the France midfielder's third dismissal since he joined the club and Arsenal's seventh of the season. In Arsène Wenger's period as manager, there have been 19 sendings-off.

"I am not happy with what happened on the field with the referee," Wenger said, adding that he did not

know why Petit was sent off, despite feeling able to call the incident "a minor offence".

Wenger also reckoned that serious misconduct by the home side, which saw Bergkamp hit in the face, went unpunished. "We are not a dirty team," the manager insisted.

Whatever trouble they may incur with the authorities, Arsenal were also at odds with themselves. In a fitful performance, the Cup-holders imposed their authority fully only in the later stages and, with the score at 1-1, Havard Flo had struck the post for Wolves. It may be that Arsenal, in common with most spectators, were misled by the ease with which the match began for them. Reality took a while to register.

It is one of the charms of the Cup that it pairs teams who know little of one another, but Wolves' apparent lack of familiarity with Arsenal's ways was outlandish with regard to the opening goal, in the tenth minute. The clubs might as well have come from separate continents rather than different divisions.

Statisticians will have to credit Tony Adams with an assist, even though he merely rolled the ball to



You're off: Petit sarcastically applauds Dunn, the referee, after being dismissed at Molineux. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

Maie Overmars in the Arsenal half. The winger kept on running, stopping only when it was time to celebrate. As he approached the penalty area, defenders such as Mark Atkins and Keith Curle still kept their distance. Did they imagine that Overmars was incapable of

finishing from there? They had allowed him as much time as a golfer requires to read the line of his putt and the Dutchman rolled a shot into the corner of the net.

The naivety of Wolves in that passage contributed to the delusion that they would be taken advantage of by

Wolves by heading in via the post. Rumbustiousness followed, with Muscat catching Bergkamp in the face with an elbow in one exchange, and Arsenal wavered.

Flo, in the 55th minute, eluded a defender to take Muscat's pass and fire against the inside of the post. All the same, the visitors flourished thereafter, establishing that they could respond to peril. Mike Stowell, the goalkeeper, saved from Dixon, Bergkamp and Overmars before being beaten in the 69th minute.

Remi Garde's corner was partially cleared and Bergkamp volleyed from 25 yards. Attempting to block, the head of Flo sent the ball brushing against Anelka's hip and into the net. Colin Lee's side cursed their ill-fortune, but it was the alleged profanity of Petit's gesture that was to register most dramatically yesterday afternoon.

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): M. Stowell; M. Adams (sub: D. Connolly 80min); D. Richards; K. Curle; P. Muscat; C. Robinson (sub: S. Sedgley 81); N. Anelka; S. Cusack; M. Giggs (sub: P. Simpson 81); R. Keane; H. Flo.

ARSENAL (4-4-2): A. Manninger; L. Dixon; T. Adams; M. Upson; N. Winterburn; R. Parfitt; R. Garde (sub: N. White 70); E. Petit; M. Overmars (sub: S. Hughes 80); S. Bergkamp; N. Anelka (sub: G. Gerrard 87).

Referee: S. Dunn

remember the Sheffield games," he said, "and I wouldn't like that to happen again."

George Graham, the former Leeds United manager, who left the club only four months ago, would be assured a warm reception on his return to Elland Road if his Tottenham Hotspur side manage to overcome Wimbledon in their replay. The teams drew 1-1 at Selhurst Park on Saturday.

Chelsea, the FA Carling Premiership leaders, take on Oxford United, the struggling first-division side, at the Manor Ground tonight with a tie against Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsborough awaiting the winners.

Of the other all-Premiership ties, Everton take on Coventry City at Goodison Park and Newcastle United meet Blackburn Rovers at St James' Park.

Bristol Rovers, the second division side, were disappointed with their draw away to Barnsley. "It would've been nice to have got Tottenham," Jason Roberts, the Rovers striker who scored twice in their 3-0 victory against Leyton Orient, said.

Rovers deliver in purple patch

Bristol Rovers.....3
Leyton Orient.....0

By Nick Szczepanik

YOU have heard, no doubt, the expression "a game of two halves". This was a game of one-third. Seventy-five minutes of energetic but unimpressive football were consigned to memory by three late goals as Bristol Rovers advanced to the FA Cup fifth round for the first time in 20 years.

Leyton Orient must have felt that they had drawn Rovers stung when their marking of Jamie Carrington, scorer of four goals in their previous game, proved so effective that he was moved to the wing to allow the introduction as substitute of Gary Penrice, the player-coach. Moreover, in Amara Simba, the former France international, they

had the most accomplished-looking forward on the field and had come closest to scoring through Alex Inglethorpe and Dean Smith. It all counted for nothing. In the 76th minute, Jason Roberts shot for after Smith had cleared a Penrice effort off the goal line after a disputed free kick. David Lee then robbed Roger Joseph before driving to the second and Roberts volleyed the third via a post. Rovers could even have made it five with steadier finishing, but the Memorial Stadium's record crowd of 9,274 went home more than content.

"For 75 minutes, we matched them," Paul Clark, the Orient assistant manager, said. "We were disappointed that it came from a free kick that was questionable, but Gary Penrice told me that that's how things are going for them."

In fact, since victory over Well-

ing United in the first round of the cup, Rovers have lost only one of their 13 games, a tribute to the re-modelling of a side by Ian Holloway, the player-manager. "I'm very pleased with this squad that I'm getting together," he said. "We are all so young everywhere, but they are quality kids."

After overcoming three Nationwide League first division sides in the competition, as well as Well- ing, Holloway hoped the draw for the fifth round would give him a chance to test his young team against a higher calibre of opposition. But they might have to play well for more than 15 minutes.

BRISTOL ROVERS (4-4-2): L. Jones; D. Pritchard; S. Foster; M. Throughton; T. Chelms; R. Tress; D. Lee; I. Holloway; M. Winkler (sub: G. Penrice 68min); J. Carrington; J. Roberts.



Carbone: a magician who wants to be believed

Carbone waves his magic wand

Sheffield Wednesday.....2
Stockport County.....0

By Martin Woods

DANNY WILSON, the Sheffield Wednesday manager, has been running the rule over Hugo Porfiri, the Benfica and Portugal striker. However, Wilson's main reservation about signing Porfiri concerns how it might affect the balance of his side. Apparently, he fears that Porfiri might be a clone of Benito Carbone, in which case, Wilson is a comedian.

After Saturday's performance against Stockport County, of the Nationwide League first division, the Wednesday manager would be well advised to lasso Porfiri's agent and agree to the original price that he had been quoted for the player.

For most of this season, Wednesday's sole attacking threat has been Carbone. On Saturday, the little magician contributed to Wednesday's breakthrough goal in the sixteenth minute, when he received Hinchcliffe's short corner and curled in a sweet cross that was headed home by Thorne, and scored one of his patented exocets 57 minutes into the second half.

County could ill-afford to lose a goal to a set piece, let alone lose Dixon, their full back, to a pulled hamstring after just six minutes. Gary McGowan, their manager, who twice reached the FA Cup semi-finals with Wednesday in the Eighties, persisted with the man-marking of Carbone.

Such a tactic might well have had appeal on the dressing-room's blackboard, but it was surely folly, given that even the cream of Serie A's defenders would probably find

Carbone a handful in his present form.

Unfortunately, Wilson's side has struggled to reach top gear on two successive occasions this season and, but for some woeful finishing by County, the second half might have assumed the traditional characteristics of this historic competition. Apart from Carbone's goal, it was impossible to escape the sense of ennui. Talking of his little Italian, Wilson said: "He only wants people to believe in him and I certainly do that." Hillsborough, on Saturday, was no place for agnostics. Like Wembley, in fact.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): P. Smyth; P. Atkinson; D. Walker (sub: J. Newsum 75min); E. Thorne; A. Hinchcliffe; W. Jork; P. Rids; N. McGowan; D. Garner; R. Humphreys (sub: A. South 62); B. Carbone.

STOCKPORT COUNTY (3-5-2): C. Nash; S. Connolly; M. Payne; M. McIntosh; C. Cook; T. Dwyer (sub: J. Garton 61); W. Phillips (sub: R. McNeill 50); D. Michels; C. Woodhouse; B. Angell; I. McKee.

Referee: N. Batty

FA Cup: Gallagher asked to explain his actions after Ginola hands over post-match gift

FA likely to throw the book at referee

Wimbledon.....1
Tottenham Hotspur.....1

BY MATT DICKINSON

WORKING for charity is not always a rewarding business, as Dermot Gallagher is about to find out. The referee left Selhurst Park on Saturday clutching David Ginola's shirt for a fund-raising auction, but whatever it costs the prospective buyer, it may have already cost Gallagher the chance to officiate the FA Cup fourth-round replay next week between these clubs.

The Football Association will write to the Banbury official this morning to "ask for his observations". In short, they will want to know why an experienced official was so stupid as to leave a game with a gift from a player.

Gallagher's charity explanation is, no doubt, an entirely honest one, but referees must be above suspicion and Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, could hardly be blamed for chiding on his post-match cuppa when he saw Ginola and Gallagher exchanging more than post-match pleasantries in the tunnel.

There are guidelines for referees that they should not procure autographs, lifts and, quite sensibly, shirts from players before or after matches and, in breaking that code of conduct, Gallagher has put himself at the mercy of the FA and Wimbledon.

The home club mostly laughed off the incident on Saturday. "We are at a bit of disadvantage because I don't think too many referees are af-

ter Carl Leaburn's shirt," Robbie Earle said, but there was concern about his humour and the FA may feel they have no option than to remove Gallagher from the replay.

If Gallagher is demoted, it should be for another incident entirely. Last season, he became the first referee from the FA Carling Premiership to be suspended for his failure to send Steve Bould off for a scything tackle on Gianluca Vialli and this match saw him once again neglect his duties.

Justin Edinburgh had already been booked for a late tackle when, with five minutes left, he went through the back of Jason Euell's ankles. If not a malicious challenge, it still carried enough venom to put the Wimbledon forward out of the game and Gallagher's first reaction, quite properly, was to reach for his pocket. It appeared certain that he would brandish both yellow and red.

With George Graham, the Spurs manager, screaming his protests and Edinburgh putting on a look of choirboy innocence, Gallagher issued nothing more stern than a ticking-off and Kinnear spat out his frustrations.

Of course, no one wants to see the English game blighted, as the World Cup was, by needless dismissals and it was far from a dirty match, but when a referee so clearly neglects his responsibilities and fails to show consistency, it is no wonder that managers and players berate the game's officials.

At least it all offered something to talk about other than Ginola's driving. "He's stayed on his feet today," Kinnear said, "so maybe he can do it



Ginola, centre, enjoys the moment after scoring an outstanding goal that earned Tottenham Hotspur a replay next week

for the rest of his career. If I said things about him in the week, it was for the good of the game. He seems to have headed it and cleaned up his act. Maybe he's been honest and looked at himself.

This was only the second encounter of five in a month between these clubs and they

are already looking faded. It was a dull cup-tie enlivened only by two wonderful goals.

Wimbledon went ahead after an hour with a goal of Jamaican flamboyance from Earle. When Leaburn's header looped across goal, it was behind the midfield player, but he twisted around and

launched a spectacular over-head kick.

Trust Ginola to match it. Apart from a few flashes, he had been shackled well by Kenny Cunningham. Searching for some space, he drifted infield and a quick shimmy past Earle provided the room for a crisp, low drive from 20 yards.

It looked so easy, one wondered why the Frenchman's scoring rate remains so low.

WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N. Salmons - K. Cunningham, G. Perry, D. Black, R. Thatcher, M. Arbery (sub: C. Cort, 75min), R. Earle, A. Roberts, M. Hughes (sub: C. Leaburn, J. Euell (sub: C. Harris, 86)).
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-2): J. Walker - S. Carr, R. Vane, S. Campbell, L. Eastwood - R. Forster, I. Forster, T. D. Anderson, S. Fray, D. Goss, C. Armstrong, S. Henson. Referee: D. Gallagher.

Portsmouth lurch deeper into turmoil

Portsmouth.....1
Leeds United.....5

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

PORTSMOUTH were up for the Cup, but the evidence of a deeper concern lay everywhere. Fly posters adorned the walls around Fratton Park, claiming that Martin Gregory, the owner and former chairman, was wanted for crimes against Portsmouth FC. "Approach with caution," prospective bounty hunters were warned.

The home fans warmed to the theme as the fourth-round tie progressed, bored with Leeds United's mounting goal tally and determined to put across their heartfelt message. "For Sale," read the leaflets they held aloft. "Would suit visionary businessman with an interest in local football," read the subtext.

In the match programme, too, the pleas to save Portsmouth - £5 million in debt, losing £5,000 a day, inland Revenue owed £405,000 - kept on coming. Michael Sotnick's letter, reproduced photographically, was touching.

"I am very worried about what is happening to my club," he wrote. "I have an idea... I want to give all my pocket money I have saved to the club and my dad says that if every supporter does the same, we will all be able to buy Portsmouth Football Club. Then this terrible thing will not happen again. I will always support Pompey. I hope they will not die." Michael, from Waterlooville, is 7½.

Portsmouth went ahead in the ninth minute, when Nightingale finished off the good work of Peron and Claridge, but the Pompey Chimes were soon silenced.

Hopkin took a short corner. Harle crossed from the left and Wetherall nodded in

unmolested at the far post. Within four minutes, the FA Carling Premiership side were in front. Igoe needlessly fouled Kewell on the edge of the area and Harle's rapier thrust flew past Knight.

From then on, Leeds lolloped into the fifth round almost with contempt, despite lacking Bowyer, McPhail, Smith, Radebe, McManis, Hadden, Hasland and Batty because of injury, suspension and international duty.

At times in the second half, Kewell, 20, caressed the ball around with his left foot. Woodgate, 19, strolled in defence and Jones, 18, scampered in midfield, on his first-team debut.

"It was case of the babies looking after the younger babies," David O'Leary, the Leeds manager, said. "I was very proud of them. I've had to flog them a bit recently, more than I'd like to, but they are a great bunch. I'm their friend, I'll look after them."

Kewell slapped in Hasselbaink's cross, Ribeiro's shot deflected wickedly over Knight via Whitehead, and Whitehead tucked in Kewell's long-range pass. It could have been more as Portsmouth fell apart and incurred, rather unfairly, the wrath of Alan Ball, their manager. "I'd like to have at least thrown a few punches in defeat," he said. "We were awful in the second half."

The Leeds fans filed out cheerily, while those of Portsmouth aimed a few more derogatory chants at Gregory and pledged their loyalty to the cause. Among them, as always, was Michael Sotnick.

PORTSMOUTH (4-4-2): A. Knight - M. Robinson, D. Wetherall (sub: M. Phillips, 55min), A. Whitbread, M. Vachey - S. Igoe, A. McPhail, J. Peron, D. Black, R. Thatcher, J. Nightingale (sub: J. Thompson, 75).
LEEDS UNITED (4-4-2): N. Salmons - I. Harte, D. Whitehead, J. Woodgate, D. Goss (sub: M. Jones, 40) - M. Kewell, G. Harte (sub: T. Kewell, 88), D. Horgan, S. Ribeiro - W. Woodgate (sub: C. Woodhead, 53), J. Hasselbaink. Referee: G. Willard.

Alcock pushed into spotlight

Barnsley.....3
Bournemouth.....1

BY PETER ROBINSON

AT 2.30pm, a voice boomed across the press room at Oakwell. "Gentlemen, before you all run away, you should know that the referee will not be giving interviews."

So what? "It's Alcock," somebody whispered.

Oh, that Alcock. Paul Alcock, as in Paolo Di Canio, as in falling over at Hillsborough. "It's his first game back," somebody said and suddenly a Saturday afternoon of little promise was looking up.

Sadly, it was not his first game since September 26, he had four afterwards, but his last match was Boreham

Wood v Luton Town in the first round of the FA Cup on November 15 and, after that, a herniated disc proved to be too painful and he was signed off work. This was his first senior fixture since then.

There was some irony in the fact that his return was not far from Sheffield, scene of the defining moment of his season, that he had to make almost the same drive up the M1 to this game as he did that day - what must he have been thinking? And this was clearly a big deal, otherwise why the protective cloak wrapped around him to ensure that the dreaded meejah did not ruin his day by asking: "How was it for you, Mr Alcock? Glad to be back?"

So, a few minutes before 3pm all eyes were on the little chap leading out the teams.

He blew his nose in the centre circle, got through the pleasantries and there were 13 minutes of re-watching until Barnsley scored - Sheridan powered in a loose ball - and everybody remembered that this was a Cup-tie.

Five minutes into the second half, Bournemouth equalised, through Howe, but then Vincent and Overdale, the Bournemouth goalkeeper, got into a bad mess on the edge of the area and gave Hignett the easiest goal of his career, rolling the ball into an empty net while they stood and watched. Martin Bullock turned in Hignett's pass to settle matters.

And then, at last, a bit of controversy. Bournemouth supporters behind the Barnsley goal had a collective loss of temper and Tony Bullock, the

Barnsley goalkeeper, refused to return to the posts until order was restored - sensible, really, since those supporters complained later that he started it by making a rude gesture towards them. Then, after the final whistle and with one and all heading for the dressing-rooms, Alcock booked Overdale for complaining, belatedly, about the second Barnsley goal.

What did the referee think of it all? No idea, he left without saying a word. Which was a shame, to be honest.

BARNSLEY (3-5-2): A. Bullock - A. Moses, M. Appleby, A. de Zeeuw - N. Eagles, S. McCann, K. Richardson, C. Hignett, D. Sheridan - D. Goodman (sub: K. Rose, 77min), J. Hignett (sub: M. Bullock, 63).
BOURNEMOUTH (4-4-2): M. Overdale - N. Young, E. Howe, C. Vincent, J. Vincent (sub: R. Bell, 75) - J. Bailey, S. Robinson, R. Hughes, C. Warren (sub: J. O'Neill, 66) - S. Fletcher, M. Stern. Referee: P. Alcock.

Sheffield emerge from classic

Notts County.....3
Sheffield United.....4
(after extra time; 3-3 after 90min)

BY RICHARD HOBSON

MEADOW Lane went into a time warp on Saturday. Here was an old-fashioned FA Cup tie that never wanted to end. Played on a surface that resembled a beach at kick-off and a mudbath two hours later, it featured long-range shooting of such improbable quality that a second look at the team sheet was required to check that Ronny Radford had not made a comeback.

Notts County should have completed the tale by upsetting Sheffield United, their supposed superiors. With six

minutes remaining of this twice-postponed third-round replay, they were 3-1 ahead and comfortably the better side. Daunted by the possibility of such success, perhaps, they lost their nerve and the visitors scored twice to take the match into extra time.

Even then, the contest continued to twist and turn. Marcelo put United in front for the first time, only for Quinn to be sent off for a second yellow-card offence with 23 minutes remaining. Kelly produced two outstanding saves to deny Hendon and Garcia and Garcia chipped over the bar from close range.

Having lambasted his side for a woeful performance in the initial game, Steve Bruce, the United player-manager, was entitled to fear humilia-

tion as County imposed themselves in the second half. "I counted my heart-rate and it was 138, but it could have been 238," Bruce said. "We were a little bit fortunate."

Now, the priority for United is to cut a £7.5 million wage bill. Victory in the home fourth-round tie against Cardiff City on Wednesday will give impetus to a season that has threatened to stall.

For Sam Allardyce, the Notts County manager, the outlook is more sombre. Somehow, he has to raise morale in a side that appears to be heading back towards the third division. "I feel terrible," he said immediately after the latest defeat. "I hope the players will take the positive things from the performance."

Jones had given County the

lead in the nineteenth minute before Borbakis floated a free kick beyond a badly-aligned wall shortly before half-time. A screaming left-foot shot by Murray from 25 yards restored the advantage before Jones made it 3-1.

United replied instantly through Holdsworth, the captain, who shot through a crowd of players. Then, in the 39th minute, Morris centred perfectly for Marcelo. The dropping County heads emphasised just how the initiative had swung.

NOTTS COUNTY (4-5-1): D. Ward - J. Hendon, M. Radford, I. Richardson, D. Pearce (sub: F. Flannery, 107min), R. Lloyd, G. O'Neil, A. Hughes (sub: J. Garmey, 55), S. Murray, A. Dyer (sub: G. Snodden, 100) - G. Jones. SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A. Kelly - J. Harte, R. Quinn, R. Ford (75), D. Hogg, J. Sandford, W. Quinn - V. Borbakis, N. Henry (sub: T. Krunic, 66), C. Woodhouse, M. Twell (sub: A. Jacobsen, 110), G. Stuart. Referee: A. Wiley.

Wrexham hit high note

Wrexham.....1
Huddersfield Town.....1

BY BILL EDGAR

THE Wrexham crowd delivered a traditional greeting to visiting supporters who might have forgotten that their journey to the match took them across a border. "Argentina, Argentina," they taunted, reminding the English of their World Cup conquerors. Many followers of Welsh clubs remain keen to emphasise their national identity.

With these clubs marooned in the lower divisions, the FA Cup has provided some optimism with three Welsh clubs in the fourth round, one of whom, Wrexham, of the Nationwide League second division, deserved to progress even further against Huddersfield Town, a first division

club. Perhaps Welsh football is becoming healthier and less in need of large loans from the English Football Association.

Brian Flynn is the third longest-serving manager in either the FA Carling Premiership or Nationwide League and, consequently, a settled squad has emerged. Dave Brammer and Karl Connolly, who have spent a combined 14 years at the club, caught the eye and combined for Connolly's seventh-minute goal.

Connolly came close to adding further to his five FA Cup goals this season, but his forward partner, one Ian Rush, rarely looked like improving his record of scoring the most goals in the competition this century. He may not have scored in 15 matches for Wrexham this season, but the former Liverpool player, 37, has retained some skills, a neat dummy contributing to

his team's goal. Wayne Allison headed Huddersfield's 22nd-minute equaliser from a cross by Marcus Stewart. Impressing Peter Jackson, the manager, has become doubly important for Allison and his colleagues now that "substantial funds" have been earmarked for strengthening the team by Barry Rube, the club's new owner.

Huddersfield's fine home record makes them favourites for the replay. Should the Englishmen lose on penalties, the Welsh supporters might well draw parallels with the World Cup and repeat their favourite South American chant with extra relish.

WREXHAM (4-3-3): M. Cartwright - M. McGregor, D. Spink, S. Carey, P. Hardy - D. Brammer, P. Lloyd, J. Russell - M. Chisholm, P. Connolly, I. Rush.
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN (4-2-3): N. Watson - S. Jenkins, S. Collins, M. Gray, J. Cowan (sub: D. Berrford, 20min) - G. Johnson, D. Phillips, R. Edwards - P. Barrow, W. Allison, M. Stewart. Referee: P. Jones.



Pulling power: Henchoz, of Blackburn, gets to grips with Phillips at Ewood Park. Photograph: Peter Wilcock

Gillespie gives Kidd hope of repeating his successes

Blackburn Rovers.....1
Sunderland.....0

BY STEPHEN WOOD

A GLANCE at the books that chronicle the history of the FA Cup is not enough. It requires another, sustained look to absorb the fact that Blackburn Rovers, whose awful recent record in the competition will rival that of any other club, boast seven triumphs, all told. If trips to Wembley are secured by making your own luck, the workaholic mentality of Brian Kidd, the Blackburn manager, could well pay off again this season.

In a short space of time, Kidd has instilled a sense of belief in his players at Ewood Park, a belief that, despite Sunderland, the Nationwide League first division club, dominating much of the fourth-round encounter, on Saturday, was enough to protect their slender advantage.

The last time that Blackburn won the FA Cup was in 1928 and they have not even appeared in a final for 39 years. In Kidd, however, they have a man whose record in the competition is rather more impressive.

Having helped Manchester United, as assistant manager, to three finals in this decade, Kidd knows how to build a side that can overcome any opposition on any given day. With the return from injury

and suspension of Chris Sutton, Tim Sherwood and Garry Flitcroft, so the theory goes, around Lancashire, Blackburn will be leading contenders. Kidd was magnanimous enough to admit that Sunderland deserved something from their encounter. Afterwards, therefore, his own fields of vision were restricted to "taking each game as it comes".

Keith Gillespie, the Blackburn winger, could not resist looking further ahead. Last season, with Newcastle United, he collected a runners-up medal and, after he had scored the winning goal on Saturday, he said: "It won't surprise people to hear that I want to go one better this season. The final against Arsenal summed up my time at Newcastle - a big let-

down. I'm glad that I've been able to make a fresh start and, to be honest, I think I've got something to prove to a few people."

His goal, after 67 minutes, silenced the vast travelling support, who had abused Gillespie throughout for his black and white connections. About 5,000 fans came from the North East, but, in essence, they had little to shout about.

Even when Jeff Kenna, the Blackburn defender, was sent off for a foul on Kevin Phillips, Kenna's second bookable offence, Sunderland failed to threaten seriously their opponents' goal.

"If I was going to be hypercritical, I suppose we did lack a bit of cutting edge," Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, said, "but I thought we were unlucky as well, because the way we passed the ball was a credit to the players. I think we showed we can live with the best."

That will be the consolation for Reid. His team are favourites for automatic promotion to the FA Carling Premiership and any evidence that suggests they will not go straight back down again should be accepted gratefully.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-1): J. Flannery (sub: T. Flowers, 43min) - J. Kenna, D. Black, M. Blake, 48, S. Hendrick, M. Besicovic, C. Dendie, D. Gibson, D. Dorr, J. Wilcock, D. Duff (sub: G. Goss, 64) - A. Wiley.
SUNDERLAND (4-4-2): T. Soriano - C. Maitland, A. Maitland, P. Butler (sub: M. Smith, 80), M. Gray - A. Reid (sub: N. Summerville, 82), G. McCann, L. Charles, A. Jefferson - N. Quinn (sub: N. Quinn, 89), N. Phillips. Referee: S. Lodge.



Gillespie: winning goal

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12/1.....1-0.....7/1	OXFORD.....DRAW	4/1.....VIALI (C)
33/1.....2-0.....13/2	OXFORD.....CHELSEA	8/1.....NICHOLLS (C)
25/1.....2-1.....8/1	DRAW.....OXFORD	3/1.....WINDASS (C)
100/1.....3-0.....9/1	DRAW.....DRAW	11/1.....BANGER (C)
100/1.....3-1.....9/1	DRAW.....CHELSEA	12/1.....DI MATTEO (C)
50/1.....3-2.....25/1	DRAW.....CHELSEA	16/1.....MURPHY (C)
10/1.....0-0.....10/1	CHELSEA.....OXFORD	16/1.....PETRESCU (C)
13/2.....1-1.....13/2	CHELSEA.....DRAW	22/1.....BABAYARO (C)
14/1.....2-2.....14/1	CHELSEA.....CHELSEA	33/1.....GRAY (C)
		10/1.....NO GOALSCORER

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GOLF

Frost revels in home comforts

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT IN STELLENBOSCH

DAVID FROST proved that home advantage can sometimes be a pleasure, not a nuisance, when he won the South African Open here with a rounding last round. Frost grew up in these parts. This was his home course, on which he has played countless rounds, and now he owns a vineyard near Paarl, 25 miles away. In winning on a course that he knows like the back of his hand, Frost did much as Ernie Els had done one week earlier when Els won the South African PGA championship on a course that he had played hundreds of times in his youth.

It was Frost's second victory in the tournament and the occasion was embellished by the way that he played one of his best rounds to snatch the lead on the 71st hole from Sven Struwer. Frost's 68, three under par, on a day when the wind had got up and turned a difficult course into a tiger, was a round of high quality. Only ten men beat par yesterday. Frost, 39, finished one stroke ahead of Scott Dunlap, and Jeev Singh, the increasingly-impressive Indian.

The crux of Frost's round came on the 70th hole. In Frost's opinion, this 456-yard par four, which was played into the wind, is the most difficult hole on the course. Once he had secured a four there to remain one stroke behind Struwer, he allowed himself a

slight pat on the back. Perhaps that was why he played the 71st so well, teeing off with a two-iron, hitting a nine-iron on 20th, and then rolling in the putt to go five under par and level with Struwer. Frost's putting, which has never been a weakness, had recently become a strength, thanks to a tip, given by a fellow professional late last year, to move his head to the right after impact. This move has the effect of making his hands, and hence the putter, go through the ball towards the hole.

He still had to face a crisis, though, when his drive on the 72nd hole rolled into the rough — only the second fairway that he missed from the tee all day — and then his second shot rolled into a greenside bunker. Frost's bunker play is as good as his putting and now he exploded to 28 to get his par and remain five under.

In the meantime, Struwer had dropped strokes on the 11th and 12th, but birdied the 15th to get back to five under par. His luck ran out when he needed it most. His drive on the last hole rolled into a divot in the middle of the fairway and, from there, he yanked a nine-iron into a pond to the left of the last green and took a six.

In this, he was typical of many. Though Steven Webster had a 70 that included two eagles, to finish joint-fourteenth, with Peter Baker, among others, high scores were commonplace. Ignacio Garrido had an 81, as did Clinton Whitelaw. Garrido and Whitelaw had been in second and joint-third places overnight, one and two strokes behind Struwer. Garrido plummeted to 34th, Whitelaw to 43rd.

Struwer's grip on the tournament began to loosen in the third round on Saturday. At one point, he was nine under par and four strokes ahead, but he finished with a 73, which included an eight at the 12th, and a 74 yesterday. Yet Struwer was philosophical at his ill luck on the 72nd fairway. "That's golf," he said.



Els displays his remarkable ability to bring people together as he mixes with members of the South African Caddies Association in Stellenbosch

Els unites all colours of the rainbow

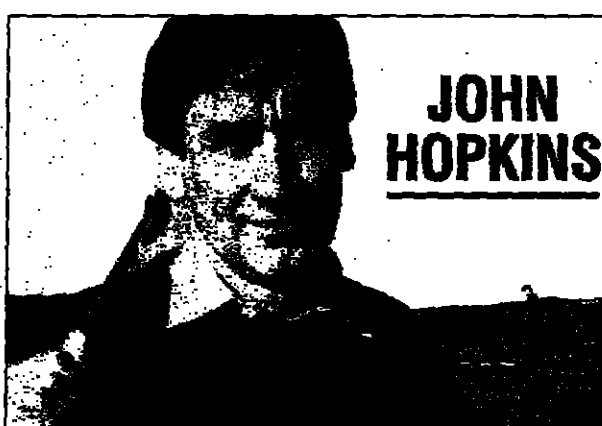
In the rainbow nation, one sportsman stands out above almost all others. In this once-divided country, Ernie Els unites more people in his support than Bobby Skinstad, the newest rugby sensation, whose face peers out from magazine covers, or Doctor Khumalo, of the Kaiser Chiefs football team, or Hansie Cronje, the captain of the South African cricket team.

There was a touching demonstration of the broad appeal of Els, the bulking Afrikaner, here at Stellenbosch Golf Club last Wednesday evening. Els finished his round in the 9th green and before he could begin damboning up the path to the stone clubhouse, he was surrounded and lionised by black caddies.

One, in particular, addressed him in an immaculate and loud English accent, grabbing him by the hand and arm, his voice carrying back to the tee of the hole that Els had just completed. Els smiled and laughed at what was being said and, as he did, the other caddies babbled excitedly, too. Later, Els would say he had no idea of

the name of that particular caddie. "I see him every time I come down here. He's a character. He makes me laugh. There are a lot like him down here." Two days later, Hettie Els, Ernie's mother, walked nine holes with her son in the second round of the South African Open, pleased and proud to note his demeanour and the esteem in which he is held — and then retreated from the 40C heat to the shelter of the clubhouse.

"The boys, Dirk and Ernie, were competitive with one another. It was good for Ernie when he was growing up that he had to struggle to keep up with Dirk, his older brother. As youngsters, Dirk painted the walls of his bedroom while Ernie stuck up posters of Jack Nicklaus. His heroes were Seve (Ballesteros), Tom Watson, Gary Player.



JOHN HOPKINS

"After television came to South Africa, we gave them a portable black-and-white set for them to watch — but only after they had done their homework. Ernie used to hide it under his duvet and watch it. I pretended I did not know. We had a billiard table in the house and one day I walked into the room and saw him standing on the table practising his putting. We have laughed about that a lot since. Ernie is the calm one. He has a lot of self-confidence and is quite assertive. Dirk is hot-headed and very impatient."

"I was worried when Ernie won his first US Open that he might not be able to cope with it all. I thought: 'Heavens, no. It's like growing up too soon.' I felt he was too young. It was a great big thing to win that major. I worried that he might get carried away. I did not have sleepless nights, but I was uneasy."

"But the crisis is over now. He is 29 and mature and financially in the big league. He is handling the pressure the way he should. His steadfastness comes from inside. It is because he is such a solid, self-contained boy. He is not any different now that he is famous. He still has this thin, little South African accent."

Thin and little are not adjectives that can be applied to the massive Els, who resembles a flank forward. As a teenager, as a tennis player good enough to represent his province and a fly half who could kick with both feet, he was as thin as a butcher's pencil.

"If I played top-class tennis, I'd still be as thin as that," Els said, "but I had to fill out a bit for this sport. Sport is very important to me. In fact, sport is my life. I follow sport first and the stock market second. I have a satellite dish and I can watch sport when we are in the US. We get tapes of rugby matches sent to me and sometimes I see them on a TV channel three days later."

On December 31 he married Liezl, his long-time girlfriend.

friend. After a party to end all parties — one guest claimed that Els organised scrumming practice for remaining guests in the early hours of the next morning — the bride and groom fled to the remote wilderness of the west coast of their country.

"I am a city boy and I had never been there," Els said. "We were roughing it. There was no electricity. We used gas lamps and candles and slept under canvas. Water for the toilet was brought from the sea. We are so spoilt, spending our time in five-star hotels. I didn't shave for days. It was great."

Last night, Els, obviously sad to be leaving home, flew to Perth for the Heineken Classic this week. "It is tough to leave our home in George," Els said. "We've been here for more than a month now. It's home, a beautiful house, real-

ly peaceful. We've got the dogs there — a Labrador and a cocker spaniel and a Great Dane, which is almost one year old now. We shall be away from South Africa until May or perhaps August."

As he begins making his towards the United States, where next month he will resume his rivalry with David Duval and Tiger Woods, against whom he felt he performed so inadequately for the latter part of last year, Els does so knowing that he carries the best wishes of a country, not just one race, with him.

The evidence for this comes from Johann Rupert, Els's mentor and one of the country's most successful businessmen. "We have a young lady working with us. She is black and good-looking and at a tournament recently she and Tiger Woods had a picture taken together. Then Ernie came around and she got a picture of herself with him. She took the photographs back to her friends and they were all more interested in seeing the picture with Ernie than with Tiger. It suggests that the new South Africa is working."

Funk seeks to build on promising start

FRED FUNK, who has been close to winning both of the years' first two events on the US Tour, stayed in contention after the penultimate round of a five-round tournament for his first victory at the Bob Hope Classic in Palm Springs, California.

Despite struggling late in the fourth round, Funk scored 69, three under par, to remain at the top of the leaderboard for the third successive day. Funk's four-round total of 268, 20 under par, gave him a one-shot lead over Steve Pate, his fellow American.

Funk was among the lead-ers in the first three rounds of the Mercedes Championship, the Tour's first event, before finishing in a tie for fifth. At the Sony Open last week, he fought back in the final round with a 65 to finish joint-twelfth. "This year, I've been playing really well and just letting it happen," he said. "I've a new focus this year. I'm determined to play well early in the season and I have so far."

At the Naples LPGA Memorial in Florida, Juli Inkster, of the United States, scored 65, seven under par, to make up three strokes on Karrie Webb and share the lead after the third round.

Inkster took advantage of a triple bogey at the 14th by Webb, of Australia, scoring four birdies on the front nine holes. "I'm glad it was windy so someone wouldn't run away with it," Inkster said. "I got some early momentum, plus I birdied some tough ones today."

Webb was not too despondent, however. "I was playing too safe. Then I made the turn and birdied three in a row. I felt really good after that. One bad swing at 14 cost me a three-shot lead," she said.

and cheekily found a way to the goal. There was no way back from 5-0. He then scored his fourth and Storm were so comfortable that Timo Kauhainen, the new net minder, was given his first outing in the third period.

Ivan Manulic scored a hat-trick for Cardiff in Nottingham, where the Devils edged to within four points of Manchester Storm with a 7-3 win. Ayr Scottish Eagles, the defending champions, were pushed all the way before achieving a 6-5 overtime win against London Knights. They went 3-0 up and were 5-2 ahead in the third period. However, Eric Flintom completed a hat-trick and Mike Harding struck to make it 5-5 right on the final buzzer. Carry Biette poached the winner after Imin 55sec of overtime.

BASKETBALL

Donewald storms into fresh trouble

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

BOB DONEWALD, the irascible coach of Derby Storm, who is facing his latest disciplinary hearing tomorrow — on his 29th birthday — could be in further trouble with officialdom after yet another argument with a referee on Saturday.

Derby's 107-94 victory over Birmingham Bulls was tarnished by a technical offence incurred by Donewald, when he took Keith Bruce, the referee, to task over the positioning of Mike Finger, the visiting coach. Finger, according to Donewald, was not being punished for constantly stepping out of bounds on to the court. Yet when Donewald tried to make a point by following Finger's example, he was penalised by Bruce.

It was for Donewald's alleged crude insults against Nigel Jones, the Welsh official, after his team's recent single-point loss to the Leopards that Donewald faces an English Basketball Association disciplinary committee this week.

The latest episode did not prevent Derby from maintaining their slim hopes of catching the Budweiser League leaders. With the help of 24 points from Yorky Williams and 20 from Joel Burns, the Storm shook off the Bulls in a 14-0 second-quarter burst, opening up a 44-25 half-time lead.

The Bulls rallied with Reggie Kirk's entire 17-point haul coming in the third quarter. Nigel Lloyd, their top scorer with 29 points — two more than Tony Sims — was another to incur the wrath of Bruce. For abusing the official, the Bulls also received a technical offence.

Like the Bulls, who are waiting for a work permit for Justin Phoenix, their new signing, Worthing Bears were also unable to select their American newcomer, Adam McCann. The league's bottom club could have done with him against Sheffield Sharks, who proceeded to a comfortable 133-107 win on the South Coast only 24 hours after they had beaten Edinburgh Rocks 93-86. The two victories helped the Sharks to regain their four-point lead over Manchester Giants at the top.

NETBALL

England turn to Muller

MARY BEARDWOOD, the England coach, has kept faith with ten of the players who steered the side to a bronze medal in the Commonwealth Games, naming Ann Marie Muller as the only newcomer to the England squad to play Wales in Cardiff on Saturday (Cathy Harris writes).

Muller, 24, and Helen Ronald, who returns to the team after recovering from a serious knee injury sustained on the 1997 South African tour, replace Fiona Murray, the captain, and Lucia Sdao, who retired after Kuala Lumpur.

Joanne Zinn, who turns 27 on Wednesday and has played a key role in Middlesex's success at the top of the championship this season, has been named as the new captain, with Olivia Murphy as vice-captain against Wales.

Murphy, Lonsdale, Amanda Newton and Naomi Siddall leave for New Zealand in late February to play for local clubs in a national cup competition during April and May. The move is a long-term investment by the All-England Netball Association to give those expected to play in the world championship in 2003 the chance to improve their skills and learn from the world's best players.

Beardwood said that she was delighted to welcome Lonsdale back. "She has trained very hard and is playing her part in some promising combinations in centre court," she said, adding that Muller's move this season to Essex Met, the county champions, had helped lift her game through tougher competition.

The match against Wales will give Beardwood the opportunity to watch less experienced players in action and she said that she would probably take another three weeks before finalising the team to meet South Africa on February 22nd.

ENGLAND SQUAD: L. Siddall (North Devon), T. Newton (Essex Met), F. Murray (Essex Met), L. Law (Essex Met), A. Muller (Essex Met), A. Newton (Essex Met), M. Muller (Essex Met), J. Zinn (Essex Met), C. Harris (Essex Met), H. Ronald (Essex Met), O. Murphy (Essex Met), M. Beadwood (Essex Met).

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Usually in defence it is correct to lead a low card unless you have a suit headed by two touching honours. On the hand that follows from the Springfield, the major US national teams event, both players in the West seat spotted an exception.

Dealer East	Game all	IMP's
♠ 974	♠ 974	
♥ A964	♥ A964	
♦ Q10	♦ Q10	
♣ KQ65	♣ KQ65	
♠ A6	♠ J10853	
♥ J1075	♥ Q2	
♦ K184	♦ A63	
♣ 1074	♣ 862	
	♥ KQ2	
	♥ K83	
	♦ 9752	
	♣ AJS	

Contract: Two No-Trumps by South. Leads: five of hearts.

South, playing a strong no-trump, opened. One Diamond rebid One No-Trump over North's One Heart response. North raised to Two No-Trumps, the final contract. Both Wests led a heart to the queen and king, then split their heart honours on the next round of the suit, and were allowed to hold the trick. Both Wests returned a club to dummy's queen. East discouraging. Both declarers continued with a spade to the king and ace.

At this stage West knows a lot about declarer's hand. Apparently he has 7 or 8 points in hearts and clubs, and the decision to attack spades suggests the queen and king. Therefore declarer cannot have the ace of diamonds. Both defenders realised it was right to play diamonds, and a small card looks obvious; but both promptly laid down the king, and played a second diamond to their partner's ace.

This let East play a third diamond through declarer's 9-7, for one down.

Note that if West starts with a low diamond, it leaves the wrong hand on lead after the ace and king of diamonds, and declarer scampers home with his eight tricks.

Geir Helgenso and Tor Helness, of Norway, the defending champions, won the 1998 Macallan International Pairs Championship. They were assured of victory with one round still to play, having led from the start. Omar Sharif, who has played in nearly every staging of the 35-year-old tournament, was third with Christian Mari. Final scores: 1, Helgenso and Helness 585 VPs; 2, Lauria and Versace (N) 577; 3, Sharif and Mari (Egypt/Fr) 516.

Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

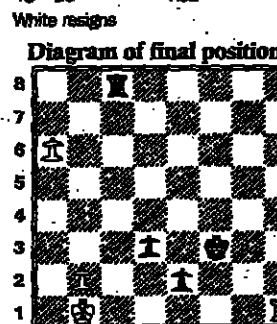
Kasparov ahead

After five rounds of the elite tournament at Wijk aan Zee in Holland, Garry Kasparov, the world champion, has nosed ahead by defeating Dimitri Reinderman, of Holland. Since Anand could only draw against Ivan Sokolov, Kasparov led by half a point.

White: Dimitri Reinderman. Black: Garry Kasparov. Wijk aan Zee, 1999.

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	c6
3	d4	exd4
4	Qxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	g6
6	Bd4	Bg7
7	Bb3	0-0
8	Be3	Qc7
9	h4	h6
10	Qd2	0-0
11	0-0-0	Nd4
12	Rd4	b5
13	g4	a5
14	Nd5	Nxd5
15	Rxd5	b4
16	e5	a6
17	Bd4	Bd7
18	g5	Rd8
19	Qg2	Bd5
20	exd6	Qd4
21	Nd1	Qd4
22	Bd1	a4
23	Rd1	Qc4
24	Rd1	b3
25	a3	Rxd6
26	exd6	Rd8
27	Rd1	Rd8
28	cd3	cd3
29	Kd1	e4
30	Qd2	e4
31	N4	Kf7
32	Qd5+	Qd5
33	Rd5	g5
34	g6+	g6
35	Rd5	g6
36	Ng5	Rd2
37	h5	Rd2
38	Rd5	Ng5
39	Bd5	Ng5



British rankings

In the new year Fide (world chess federation) ranking list, the top British ratings are as follows: Adams 2,716, Short 2,697, Sadler 2,668, Miles 2,609, Speelman 2,601 and Nunn 2,600.

Wijk aan Zee website. The Wijk aan Zee games can be followed on chess24.com or hoogovens.nl.

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by e-mail. The address is keenechess@aol.com.

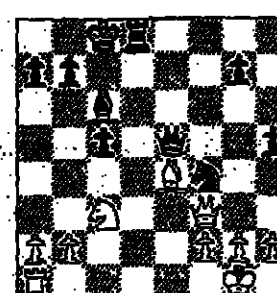
Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Batsford Ltd tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99 plus postage and packing.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Mossakowski — Gansel, Gausdal, 1998. The position seems balanced, but Black's next move gave him a decisive material advantage. How did he continue?



Solution on page 43

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

CUNURA
a. Hardwood
b. Arrow poison
c. Sculpture

GONBAD
a. Flight control system
b. Hydrotherapy
c. Memorial building

QUMBO
a. A stew
b. Adhesive
c. A cartoon character
UMIAK
a. A waterproof
b. An early taxi
c. An Eskimo boat

Answers on page 43

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THE TIMES

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CHANGING TIMES

هكذا من الجهد

Gray steers almost perfect path amid twists and turns

A short while ago, I watched an encounter between two male lions. It was won by the weaker of the two, old, slumped, a bag of bones, gone in his prime. The loser was in his prime, as sleek and as glossy as a black-maned lion as you could wish to see.

He was not outwitted, it was simply that the old lion had the habit of dominance he sincerely believed that he was the only one. But also, and perhaps chiefly, the young lion had the habit of submission. In his heart, he deferred to the older male. In his heart, he was second-best.

It will not be that way for ever, perhaps even now, the pride dynamics have altered —

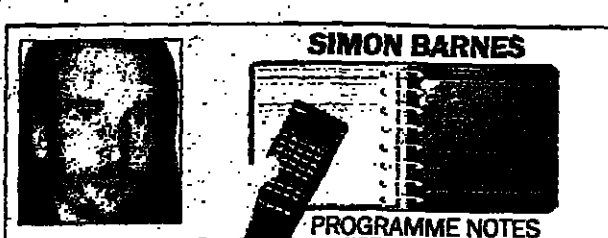
but in that period when I had the pride under prolonged, daily observation, the long-established dominance hierarchy remained in place. The stronger deferred to the weaker.

And that was exactly the way it was at Old Trafford yesterday, when Sky Sports brought us the noon-day clash — *High Noon* the movie was on BBC the previous day — between Manchester United and Liverpool. The cast list was enough to ensure a compelling occasion and, as it happened, the game was an absolute better, sport at its best. Which also happens to be television at its best.

Those with memories that extend deep before the dawn of time — before Eric Cantona,

before Sky Television, before the Cup turned into the AXA-sponsored FA Cup — will recall that Liverpool won everything. It was Manchester United who had the habit of deference. They submitted to Liverpool. After a period of eye contact, it was always United who blinked.

Lord, knows, United had plenty of excellent players, but they also had a culture of deference and Liverpool made themselves perpetual overdogs the length and breadth of Europe. No team across the Continent was able to look into Liverpool's eyes without blinking. Roy Evans was there during the great days and was made manager long after Liverpool had lost the ability to exert



SIMON BARNES

PROGRAMME NOTES

automatic deference. He was there yesterday, doing the studio commentary for Sky, no longer manager and looking much older than when doing the desperately worrying job of seeking to rebuild the culture of dominance.

These days, of course, it is United who exert deference. Evans talked about Liverpool attacking, of Liverpool being no longer afraid — and there

was Michael Owen's third-minute goal to prove him right. Or so it seemed.

Then a wonderful Liverpool defensive effort, with United having a shot cleared off the line, hitting a post, seeing fluky deflections scrape the safe side of a post. And Andy Gray chortling that it was clearly destined to be Liverpool's day. The best commentators keep up with the play, while

the adequate ones follow play. The very rare ones anticipate it. The worst anticipate wrong. There was a time when I used to collect Truemanisms: any statement by any commentator that is immediately contradicted by actual events. "Bob Willis knows he can never be a fast bowler." Four wickets in the half-hour to big Bob.

The opposite of a Truemanism is probably a Benaudism and the nearest football has — for football is a much more swiftly changing and volatile game than cricket — to a purveyor of Benaudism is Gray. He correctly anticipated defensive problems for Liverpool with the loss of Paul Ince, but he was never quite up to speed with the United revival. But

then who could have been? The late equaliser, then the stoppage-time winner from Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who has been given the unwieldy nickname of The Baby-Faced Assassin.

His fails to do complete justice, though, to his genuinely sinister qualities. Solskjaer's face looks at the same time babyish and incongruously old: a vicious, stiletto-wielding elf. He would be perfect casting for the midget murderer in *Don't Look Now*.

The discursive nature of the Sky commentary style means that Gray and Martin Tyler are sometimes sidetracked into talking about other things

than what is happening right now, right here. The wild and wacky conclusion made both look a trifle leaden-footed.

Still, Gray came up with a Benaudism when he emphasised the need for concentration over the last couple of minutes as David Beckham lined up the fateful free kick. Thirty seconds later, a goal and a lapse of concentration entitled Gray to his "I told you so" as Dwight Yorke pushed the ball into the goal.

This was a great two hours of sport and Sky have a right to punch the air with delight. If it had been any better, it might even have made the appalling and perpetual AXA adverts seem intelligent, or even bearable.

The driver of this train of opulence and privilege has been Juan Antonio Samaranch

Presiding over Olympic shame

The Great Olympic Gravy Train has hit the buffers and, not surprisingly, just three of the nine people specifically accused by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of discrediting the Olympic Movement have volunteered to get off.

As a result, for the next six weeks, six more men of the committee are suspended, though they have been named and shamed; they face expulsion on March 17 if a two-thirds majority of their colleagues dare to do it. During that time, the Olympic rings and the ethos that they represent will remain in limbo.

The driver of this train of opulence and privilege has been Juan Antonio Samaranch. His said yesterday, in a shaky voice, that he was sorry that some of his colleagues had let down the Olympic ideal, but, although he will seek a vote of re-confidence, he takes no responsibility for presiding over the decline and fall of the body of men and a few women that he has led into this unholy mess.

Many presidents would have resigned, but Samaranch, 78, believes that the Olympic movement needs him now more than ever. It needs someone — but not a man who literally was granted a three-car train to transport himself and his retinue to Nagano one month before that wintry city was granted the 1998 Games.

The vice-president, Dick Pound, the Montreal lawyer who was charged with heading the IOC internal inquiry, yesterday failed to assert the full integrity that the Olympics now rapidly need.

He supported the president in office and stated that the \$700,000 (about £440,000) that everyone has been openly stating was spent by Salt Lake City to bribe members

ROB HUGHES



for their votes was not corrupt, not bribery and not criminal. It merely broke the Olympic oath, he said, and brought the reputation of the IOC into disrepute.

Yet Pound had said earlier that Samaranch received so many "protection" gifts that he would need a house the size of ten acres to take them all home. Is this the image, the reputation, the leadership that the IOC, with apparently susceptible members aboard, should be following?

The public are heartily sick of the hypocrisy, the bandying of words. Either the named individuals are the worst example of "brutally obvious corruption", as one member of Pound's commission described it, or they are being framed.

Sergio Samtander, the Chilean politician who is one of the suspended six, summed things up when he said: "I am certain I did



The appeal of the Olympic movement, that has been compromised by a bribery scandal, is evident in the huge crowd at the opening of the centennial Games in Atlanta

not act incorrectly at any moment."

One can see the leadership of the IOC, if it has got this wrong, in the dock for defamation of character, but, in the next six weeks, the public will be floundering, bound to listen to more hubris, such as the Salt Lake City official who described his city's largesse as a "humanitarian outreach programme". May the Gods of Olympus spare us such tripe.

There was a voice of reason from England. Menzies Campbell, a former Olympic sprinter and an MP expected to throw his hat into the Liberal Democratic leadership ring, has called for the entire IOC to be scrapped. He warns that the world is fearful "that the Games are for drug takers in tracksuits and bribe takers in blazers".

Does the Honourable Ming not know that the IOC is no longer calling them bribes? Better that he, a

man with real feeling and experience of taking part, should condemn the malpractice than Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport. Only on Friday, Banks described Samaranch as being "a man who is not accused of anything".

To millions who care about the Olympic ideal, who believe, despite everything, that it is an irreplaceable concept, Samaranch is guilty, at the very least, of complacently building up a committee that has become blatantly contaminated.

The Olympic flame is withering and has been ever since 1984, when the \$200 million profits of the Los Angeles Games began a race of competitive greed by countries, or rather cities, trying to outbid each other, legally or otherwise, to stage the Olympics.

Steve Ovett, an Olympian who should know better, suggests that competitors will not care about the

IOC ethics as they did for gold, but this is a wayward observation. Even he misconstrues the idea of the Olympics: it was revised 103 years ago by Pierre de Coubertin as a competition for "the taking part".

For all bar those who are favourites for medals, it remains the dream of running, swimming, cycling or whatever in the greatest Games of mankind. To them, the Olympic ideal is not idle and it is worth fighting for.

As too many of them are sucked into the common belief that to compete at all is high on impossible without the substances, the drugs, that the Olympic godfathers are promising to tackle once and for all.

Who can go to Lausanne, the same temple where the charade took place yesterday, in the first

week of February believing in the authority of Samaranch and others to conduct the world's most powerful symposium against drug abuse?

That conference, inviting the whole body of international sports to come under the wings of Olympism, is now virtually destroyed. Those who thought that it would be the most concerted and vital gathering that sport could aspire to before the end of this millennium have been deceived.

Sadly, there are people who will sell their souls and their involvement in the games that others play. We have seen in the court of Samaranch, and not a few other sports, how games have been sold to the mercenaries.

In world football, run for 24 years by the Brazilian João Havelange, an Olympian, too, a similar pattern has developed. Nothing as corrupting as the Olympic rings

has been proven, but Havelange, even ahead of Samaranch, put sport on to an entirely different plane through the profitable liaison, the golden triangle of sport, with television and sponsorship. They can command \$1 billion for the television rights, approaching \$1 billion in sponsorships, for each version of the Olympics, each World Cup. And therein lies the root of corruption.

Havelange, though still a member of the IOC and still the honorary president of Fifa, the world football authority, has retired without the ignominy that surrounds Samaranch, but both of them coveted, for their selfish service to sport, the Nobel Peace Prize.

That they did not get it becomes a source of comfort to those who must pick up the baton and redirect sport to wholesome pursuit. And it emphasises that not everything on this earth can be bought.

SPORTS LETTERS

E-mail, including a postal address and daytime telephone number, should be sent to: sport.letters@the-times.co.uk

Greyhounds' cruel fate

From Ms Charlotte Cornwell and others
Sir, As some of your readers may not have seen the recent BBC programme about the greyhound racing industry, we feel that concerns surrounding the welfare of greyhounds deserve a wider audience.

In 1992, 0.4 per cent of off-course betting tax on greyhound racing was made available to the British Greyhound Racing Fund, one of the three private companies that control the greater part of the greyhound racing business. Distribution of that money is primarily in the gift of track owners and bookmakers and the cash goes largely to infrastructure and capital projects.

Of the £45 million available to them last year, a mere £160,000 was devoted to the aftercare of greyhounds leaving the track.

Every year, 10,000 greyhounds are newly registered to race and displace thousands of older greyhounds, who may have the capacity to live another ten years. Some are fortunate to be kept by their owners, but other healthy dogs are destroyed and many more cruelly abandoned, ending up in the care of animal welfare agencies or worse.

It is an indictment of those who control greyhound racing that the gentle animals who underpin their business are not better served. Not only is the pitance devoted to their aftercare a scandal, but payments for races to the bulk of owners are so paltry that they could not afford to subscribe to a compulsory "pension" scheme to cover dogs "retiring" (if one existed).

The true extent of the greyhound welfare problem is unknown. What we do know is that some animals suffer extreme hardship. The lack of information doubtless suits the industry, the bookmakers and the successive Governments to date, which have pocketed more than £1 billion each year from the betting public, "no questions asked".

We call on the Government to carry out an inquiry into the welfare of greyhounds surplus to racing, which will scope the problem, produce costed proposals for the creation of independent long-term welfare arrangements and set out an implementation plan.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLOTTE CORNWELL,
ALEXANDRA BASTEDO,
SIMON GALLOW,
JEAN BOHT,
JILLY COOPER,
ANNETTE CROSBIE,
SHIRLEY WATTS,
105 Sotheby Rd, NS 2UT.

Wilson of the Wizard stirs memories

From Mr Eric Hamer
Sir, John Bryant's article on Wilson of the Wizard (January 14) brought back memories of the late Ron Pickering. I remember some years ago, Ron, commenting on an athletics meeting, referring to that great Scottish sprinter, Allan Wells, who had come to the track in black vest and the then little-worn black Lycra shorts, as looking like Wilson of the Wizard — a comment lost on a young generation, but not on us Wizard readers.

Apart from Wilson of the Wizard's prowess on the track, let us not forget that he was the first man to climb Everest and return, without

oxygen — and in his woollen leotard, of course. Yours faithfully,
ERIC HAMER,
13, Lant Avenue, Ulandrindod Wells, LD1 5LA.

From Mr Eric Roberts
Sir, The only athlete who measured up to the great Wilson is Jos Naylor, the Walsdale Farmer, who ran 72 Lakeland peaks in under 24 hours in 1975. I helped Jos on this run and was struck by his likeness to Wilson.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC ROBERTS,
Lymnara, Townhead Road, Carlisle CA5 7JF.

One-day choices

From Mr Henry Pepper
Sir, While England's cricketers struggle to match their rivals for technique and natural ability, why do the selectors repeatedly compound these problems with poor choices?

The selections of the bit-players Mark Alleyne and Vince Wells have proved to be a mockery in the "Triangular series, as they have been found to be out of their depth."

Ian Austin performed well in the one-day international in the summer. He even produced a man-of-the-match display. However, he must wait for the ridiculously large squad of 30 to be cut down to 15 for the World Cup. In this time, he will not have a chance

to impress the selectors. The same goes for Mark Ramprakash, England's second-most consistent batsman in the Ashes, who has also been overlooked from the triangular series. I doubt inclusion in the preliminary squad of 30 will have put their minds at rest.

Perhaps the selectors could learn from their Australian counterparts, who, as Ian Botham commented, "got it right again and again". Yours sincerely,
HENRY PEPPER,
Broad Close,
Rossett Green Lane,
Hartogate HG2 9LH.

Barmy Army

From Mr Douglas Smith
Sir, The attempt by Mr Gordon Birtwistle (January 18) to

Rugby heads should roll

From Mr John Streule

Sir, We may not have the experience or expertise of Fran Cotton, but there are many who also "know and love" the game of rugby football. We must all be in despair over the ineptitude of the present English management and their apparent intentions to ruin this great game. As I write, the participation of England in the Five Nations Championship remains in doubt, but even these blinkered and largely anonymous men will surely back down before this calamity of state is confirmed.

To those of us who simply wish to enjoy the game and to read match reports and not politics, this present debacle can come as no surprise. After all, one did not have to be a Woodward to recognise that the international programme in the summer was ludicrous. One did not require the business acumen of a Branson to anticipate financial crisis in clubs paying six-figure salaries when average wages were in the low four figures. Nor did we require the expertise of a Saatchi to realise that, at a time when a changing game needed to be promoted, the removal of all live coverage from

terrestrial television was tantamount to sabotage.

All these are so obvious as to suggest that our present administrators are more interested in short-term gain than in the welfare of the game. Perhaps this is uncharitable; perhaps they are simply incompetent. Who are they? Do they show remorse or apologise for the shambles they are creating? Instead of blaming others, it is time for someone to stand up and be counted, to take responsibility and bring some sanity to the game before it is too late.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN STREULE,
Low Swinklebank,
Longsleddale, Kendal,
Cumbria LA8 9BD.

Sex sacrificed

From Mr Peter Walters
Sir, Facing the prospect of a relegation battle, I note that to ensure survival, Roud Gullit's Newcastle team is to sacrifice "sexy football".

Clearly, Roud has appreciated that in adversity British football's traditional tactical last stand has always appeared to have been "kicked and chaste".

Yours faithfully,
PETER WALTERS,
Red Trees,
Holmefield Avenue,
Thornton Cleveleys,
Lancashire FY5 3QP.

This week in THE TIMES



Tomorrow
With Oxford United struggling for survival off the pitch, did they manage to lift the gloom hanging over the club with victory at home to Chelsea in the FA Cup?

Wednesday
Lindsay Davenport, above, the world No 1, powered her way to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open without dropping a set. Did her run continue when she came up against the equally hard-hitting Venus Williams?

Thursday
Who drew first blood when Wimbledon and Tottenham Hotspur met in the first leg of the Worthington Cup semi-final?

Saturday
Guide to the weekend's Premiership matches, plus: columnists Danny Baker, Frank Leboeuf and Robert Elms

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BY MOORE

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Allied Dunbar Premiership: Leicester make heavy weather of maintaining title push

Richards in no mood to rest on his laurels

Leicester.....23
Gloucester.....16

BY ALAN PEAREY

THE mood of Dean Richards, their manager, is usually a good barometer of Leicester's performance. On Saturday, his surly manner reflected the form of a team who will need to show far more ruthlessness in coming weeks to maintain their leadership of the Allied Dunbar Premiership.

Richmond, tomorrow, Harlequins and London Irish lie in wait for Leicester before their potential title before their Northampton on March 13. Three of the four games are away. No one was arguing when Richards said: "It's not an easy run-in."

It might have been worse. After suffering for 78 minutes from painfully slow ball, Gloucester broke the gain-line for once and Terry Fanolua's thundering run put Richard Tombs over. It was the first time that the visitors had penetrated the Leicester 22 and, after Mark Mapletoft converted, there followed some anxious moments for most of the 11,394 crowd as Gloucester sought the try that would give their fly half the chance to kick his side to what would have been an improbable draw.

Such a result would have been a travesty, as Richard Hill, the Gloucester director of rugby, was quick to admit. "At 23-9 and with Leicester on our line, I thought it could be 30 or 40 points against us," he said. "They had all the ball and it was only their errors that kept us in the game. Leicester were not that impressive and looked like a side that expected to win."

In a mediocre game, poor decision-making and frequent turnovers combined to deny Leicester the victory margin that their territorial supremacy warranted. They struggled in the tight and were twice forced back from their own lineout when in scoring range. Though Martin Corry again excelled at No 8, the back row missed the quicksilver Neil Back, who was absent with flu.

It was left to Dave

Lougheed, the powerful Leicester wing, to deliver the goods. The Canadian, who had been keen to leave Welford Road when Nnamdi Enulike was holding down the No 11 shirt in the autumn, capitalised on Austin Healey's quick tap and then barged through rare loose tackling to prevent Gloucester gaining a half-time lead. Later, he crossed the line again, but a pile-up of bodies stopped Ashley Rowden, the referee, from seeing whether Lougheed had secured a hat-trick.

With Joel Stranely not yet restored to full fitness, Tim Stimpson undertook goal-kicking duties and his fallibility—he missed four out of seven attempts—enabled Gloucester to stay in touch.

Gloucester have now lost seven successive away league matches. If a new game plan, intended to stop the rot, was in operation here, it was difficult to detect in a match much fragmented by the referee's whistle.

One of the more surprising statistics of this season is that of Gloucester's 37 league tries, only four have been scored by forwards. Yet any thoughts of spinning the ball wide may have gone out the window when, in a remarkable transformation from the sides' meeting at Kingsholm last month, Gloucester discovered they had an edge in the front row.

Though likely to provide as many as ten players to the forthcoming England A squad, the feeling remains that Gloucester are a side for the future. As for Leicester, their hour has come. Will they win the title? If it was a betting man, I'd put my money on Northampton," Richards said, a smile breaking out.

SCORES: Leicester: Tries: Lougheed 2 (23, 40), Stranely (61). Conversions: Stimpson 2 (23, 40), Healey 1 (61). Penalties: Stimpson 1 (61). Gloucester: Tries: Tombs (78). Conversions: Mapletoft 1 (78). Penalties: Mapletoft 3 (23, 31, 37). **SCORING SEQUENCE:** (Leicester first) 0-3, 3-3, 9-3, 9-6, 9-8, 13-9 (half-time), 16-9, 16-12, 16-15, 16-18, 16-21, 16-24, 16-27, 16-30, 16-33, 16-36, 16-39, 16-42, 16-45, 16-48, 16-51, 16-54, 16-57, 16-60, 16-63, 16-66, 16-69, 16-72, 16-75, 16-78, 16-81, 16-84, 16-87, 16-90, 16-93, 16-96, 16-99, 17-0, 17-3, 17-6, 17-9, 17-12, 17-15, 17-18, 17-21, 17-24, 17-27, 17-30, 17-33, 17-36, 17-39, 17-42, 17-45, 17-48, 17-51, 17-54, 17-57, 17-60, 17-63, 17-66, 17-69, 17-72, 17-75, 17-78, 17-81, 17-84, 17-87, 17-90, 17-93, 17-96, 17-99, 18-0, 18-3, 18-6, 18-9, 18-12, 18-15, 18-18, 18-21, 18-24, 18-27, 18-30, 18-33, 18-36, 18-39, 18-42, 18-45, 18-48, 18-51, 18-54, 18-57, 18-60, 18-63, 18-66, 18-69, 18-72, 18-75, 18-78, 18-81, 18-84, 18-87, 18-90, 18-93, 18-96, 18-99, 19-0, 19-3, 19-6, 19-9, 19-12, 19-15, 19-18, 19-21, 19-24, 19-27, 19-30, 19-33, 19-36, 19-39, 19-42, 19-45, 19-48, 19-51, 19-54, 19-57, 19-60, 19-63, 19-66, 19-69, 19-72, 19-75, 19-78, 19-81, 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Queen's Bench Division

Deciding whether tenancy exists

Mehra v Royal Bank of Scotland plc and Others
Before Mr Justice Southwell, QC
(Judgment January 14)

In deciding whether a tenancy existed, the three hallmarks principle, occupation for a term, at a rent, with exclusive possession, as set out in *Street v Mountford* (1985) AC 825, 828, were not decisive in circumstances where other factors of equal importance to and in addition to those hallmarks were in evidence.

Mr Richard Southwell, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division, so held in awarding Mr Mehra £100,000 damages for wrongful eviction.

In October 1993 Mr Mehra had approached Mr John McKerracher of Nolan Associates regarding the rent of a room in the Riverbank Hotel at 30/32 Old Brompton Road, on a long term basis, as he was not a visitor but a Londoner.

Mr Mehra was informed that the Royal Bank of Scotland was the landlord in possession of the hotel, that Mr C. G. Adams had been appointed receiver of the hotel and was authorised to manage and operate it on behalf of Mr Fakhri Gham Hussain Ramji, FCA, the chairman, which was in due course to be set up.

Mr Adams had given written instructions for Nolan Associates to act as the management agents for the properties. Mr McKerracher after obtaining consent from the bank entered into an oral agreement with Mr Mehra, that Mr Mehra was to have exclusive possession on a long term basis of room 418 in the hotel on an agreed monthly rent.

The agreement continued for six months. On May 5, 1994 Mr Mehra was told by Mr Adams and Mr Nolan that completion was to take place on the sale of the hotel, and he was asked to leave by the following day. Mr Mehra was told to occupy his room he would have to sign a new contract. Mr Mehra refused and sought legal advice on the following day. He returned to find that he had been wrongfully evicted.

His LORDSHIP said that the three hallmarks were present: 1 Mr Mehra had exclusive possession. 2 There were monthly payments. 3 There was a periodical term.

In addition, reference could be made to these other factors: 4 This was a room in a hotel, although Mr Mehra pointed out, in a hotel being run in what was still recognisably built as a house. 5 The room was let as a furnished room.

6 Limited services of cleaning and housekeeping, bedsheet changing (highly priced as minimal) were provided. 7 It was known to both parties that the hotel was in the hands of a receiver and presumably to be sold as a going concern, if possible.

8 It was known to both parties that Mr Mehra wanted long term possession of the room. 9 The agreement was clearly on a special basis, expressly distinguished by the parties from the ordinary arrangements for a hotel room.

10 When Mr Mehra's first claim was pleaded in West London County Court in May 1994 by counsel and solicitors, the pleading was based on a licence and not a tenancy, contrary to Mr Mehra's instructions and subsequently corrected by him on amendment, and the interim injunction was discharged on the ground that a licence was not binding on a purchaser of the hotel with notice of the tenancy.

11 When Mr Mehra's claims were struck out on other occasions at first instance or by the Court of Appeal it was assumed by the courts that he had no more than a licence.

But in his LORDSHIP's judgment the observations in *Street v Mountford* were directed primarily to a case in which the three hallmarks were the factors of overriding importance, and in which the landlord had deliberately set out to exclude Rent Act protection for the tenant.

Those observations could not be applied indiscriminately, and particularly not in a case in which there were other equally significant factors to be taken into account in addition to the three hallmarks.

Having regard to all the factors above, his LORDSHIP was satisfied that this case was distinguishable from *Street v Mountford* on its facts. Like Lord Templeman in his LORDSHIP's judgment, he was concerned as to how contractual tenancies and contractual licences were in general to be distinguished.

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Law Report January 25 1999

Failure to comply with salary package

Cantor Fitzgerald International v Callaghan and Others
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Judge and Lord Justice Tuckey
(Judgment January 21)

In a contract of employment the contractual arrangements for pay between employer and employee were of crucial importance. The defendant employees were liable to an employer to honour an agreement that they would not be paid more than the value of the salary package.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an appeal by five employees, Lee Callaghan, Kevin Chandler, Michael Gomez, Robert Stallis and Sean Tabb, from the judgment of Mr Justice Popplewell on March 25, 1997, whereby he had held, *inter alia*, that their employer, Cantor Fitzgerald International, had not repudiated their contracts of employment by failing to comply with their salary packages.

Mr Eldred Tabachnik QC and Miss Jane Tracy Forster for the employees; Mr Alistair McGregor, QC and Mr Nigel Porter for the employer.

LORD JUSTICE JUDGE said that the employees were members of a team of inter-dealer brokers employed by Cantor on its Belgian government securities desk.

In 1997 the five employees in a joint notice of termination of their employment, intending to start work with Cantor's rivals, Liberty Eurasia Ltd.

For the purposes of the appeal the defendants claimed that their contracts of employment had been repudiated on the ground, *inter alia*, that Cantor had wrongly failed or refused to comply with the agreed arrangements in relation to their salary packages, connected in particular with assurances given to them about tax liabilities.

Their contracts of employment with Cantor had made provision for payment to each of them of four-year £60,000 forgivable loans that included arrangements for the payment of the loans to be made by Cantor in the event of their leaving the company.

In the eventual circumstances, and inconsistently with that agreement, each defendant became liable to tax on the imputed benefit of the loans. The defendants claimed that the purpose of the Act was to prevent persons acting as directors who were unfit to do so.

That being so, there was no reason in principle why the applicant for a disqualification order who sought to establish unfitness in relation to more than one company should be obliged to limit himself to naming only one of those companies as lead companies, leaving the other or others to be treated as collateral companies, since by doing so he might be limiting his chances of obtaining an order.

Not was there anything in the Act which justified such an artificial and arbitrary result.

Solicitors: Payne Hicks Beach, Burrows, Brighton.

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Mr Collings also submitted that the Court of Appeal's decision in *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Ainsworth* (1997) 2 BCLC 334 supported the view that only one lead company was permissible.

His LORDSHIP said that he rejected that submission. It had been said many times in the authorities that the purpose of the Act was to prevent persons acting as directors who were unfit to do so.

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Naming company when disqualifying director

In re Surrey Leisure Ltd
Before Mr Justice Jonathan Parker
(Judgment January 14)

In disqualification proceedings brought under section 6 of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 it was permissible for the applicant for a disqualification order to nominate more than one lead company on the originating application. However, there was no requirement under section 16(1) that the notice of intention to bring such proceedings should name all the lead companies.

Mr Justice Jonathan Parker so held in the Chancery Division in dismissing an appeal by Michael Keam against an order made by Judge Margaret Cooke QC in the County Court refusing to strike out proceedings brought by the Official Receiver under section 6 of the 1986 Act.

Section 16 of the 1986 Act provides: "(1) A person intending to apply for the disqualification of a director in so far as they related to Surrey Leisure Ltd."

On that application the judge concluded that there had been a failure to comply with section 16(1) but that following the Court of Appeal decision in *Secretary of State for Trade and Industry v Ainsworth* (1997) Ch 402 the provisions of section 16 were not mandatory but merely directory.

Accordingly, non-compliance did not automatically render the subsequent proceedings a nullity, rather, the court should consider whether the applicant had acted reasonably in not naming all the lead companies.

His LORDSHIP said that he rejected that submission. It had been said many times in the authorities that the purpose of the Act was to prevent persons acting as directors who were unfit to do so.

That being so, there was no reason in principle why the applicant for a disqualification order who sought to establish unfitness in relation to more than one company should be obliged to limit himself to naming only one of those companies as lead companies, leaving the other or others to be treated as collateral companies, since by doing so he might be limiting his chances of obtaining an order.

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12 Mr Mehra sought to rely on requirements of the local authority for long-term letting on the footing that the hotel did not have established use. That was not accepted.

13 In documents prepared shortly before Mr Mehra was evicted he was described as a resident, and a long-term guest. Those documents were relied on by Mr Mehra as evidence of what he had agreed orally with Mr McKerracher.

In his LORDSHIP's judgment, the question whether this was a tenancy or a contractual licence of the facts of the case, was not an easy one to answer and the approach of the House of Lords in *Street v Mountford* was not easy to apply in such circumstances.

His LORDSHIP concluded that what had been agreed was a contractual licence and not a tenancy. In reaching his conclusion his LORDSHIP said that it might be considered that he was going contrary to Lord Templeman's view that the three hallmarks, to which he referred, were decisive in favour of a tenancy.

However, in his LORDSHIP's judgment, the observations in *Street v Mountford* were directed primarily to a case in which the three hallmarks were the factors of overriding importance, and in which the landlord had deliberately set out to exclude Rent Act protection for the tenant.

Those observations could not be applied indiscriminately, and particularly not in a case in which there were other equally significant factors to be taken into account in addition to the three hallmarks.

Having regard to all the factors above, his LORDSHIP was satisfied that this case was distinguishable from *Street v Mountford* on its facts. Like Lord Templeman in his LORDSHIP's judgment, he was concerned as to how contractual tenancies and contractual licences were in general to be distinguished.

But in his LORDSHIP's judgment the observations in *Street v Mountford* were directed primarily to a case in which the three hallmarks were the factors of overriding importance, and in which the landlord had deliberately set out to exclude Rent Act protection for the tenant.

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What each court, faced with the need to make a distinction, had to do was weigh all the relevant and significant factors and to decide in the light of them on which side of the line the particular case fell.

This case fell on the contractual licence side of the line: see *Abbeyfield (Harpenden) Society Ltd v Woods* (1968) 1 WLR 374, *Lagden v Ockendon* (1982) 2 Ch 209, and *Marchant v Charters* (1997) 1 WLR 1181.

His LORDSHIP concluded that a notice period of four months was appropriate, that Mr Mehra was entitled under section 27 of the Housing Act 1988 to the statutory damages of £45,000 against Mr McKerracher, calculated under section 28.

Mr Ramji was also vicariously liable for the trespass committed by Mr Adams and Mr Mehra, the total of £27,500 to be set off against the statutory damages.

Each of Mr Adams and Mr Nolan was liable to Mr Mehra in trespass and as joint tortfeasors for the same common law damages totalling £27,500.

His LORDSHIP referred to comments made on October 17, 1997, by Lord Justice Robert Walker when he had refused leave to appeal to Lord Justice Nourse in his LORDSHIP's judgment on May 7, 1997 striking out Mr Mehra's action against the bank.

Lord Justice Robert Walker had stated that in law the bank as mortgagee was not responsible for the actions of Mr Adams, although the bank was the bank which had appointed him as receiver. Under the general law, and under the terms of the mortgage, it was the mortgagee, Mr Ramji who would normally bear such responsibility.

Lord Justice Robert Walker had drawn attention to the harshness of that principle. Since it was always the mortgagee, not the mortgagee, who had the funds neces-

sary to make good the receiver's wrongful acts.

His LORDSHIP respectfully added his voice to that of the Court of Appeal. This was a long established principle that needed reconsideration in modern conditions because not infrequently it could work serious injustice.

His LORDSHIP added that the absence of legal aid had meant that virtually all the proceedings had been conducted by Mr Mehra as a litigant in person. That had resulted in a number of abortive proceedings, involving much wasted costs, time and effort, not least on the part of the courts.

If the litigant in person had been able to obtain competent and effective legal advice from the outset, the right defendant could have been sued in respect of the right causes of action.

In the time of the courts has been spent on many occasions unnecessarily. That was not the fault of the litigant in person, Mr Mehra, who had, as Lord Justice Robert Walker had recognised had floundered without knowledge or guidance in a legal system which provided virtually no help to him as a litigant in person.

It was not improbable that the costs of unnecessary court time had substantially exceeded, in the demands made on the public purse, the cost of simple legal aid if provided to Mr Mehra.

It seemed to his LORDSHIP that, in the course of the present review of the civil justice system, one needed to be to achieve a better balance between the cost to the taxpayer of abortive civil legal proceedings before the courts, and the cost of providing effective and competent legal advice and assistance to litigants to avoid such abortive proceedings.

Unless that was achieved, the unnecessary burden on the civil courts was likely to rise substantially.

Solicitors: Keegan Williams.

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His LORDSHIP said that he rejected that submission. It had been said many times in the authorities that the purpose of the Act was to prevent persons acting as directors who were unfit to do so.

That being so, there was no reason in principle why the applicant for a disqualification order who sought to establish unfitness in relation to more than one company should be obliged to limit himself to naming only one of those companies as lead companies, leaving the other or others to be treated as collateral companies, since by doing so he might be limiting his chances of obtaining an order.

Not was there anything in the Act which justified such an artificial and arbitrary result.

Solicitors: Payne Hicks Beach, Burrows, Brighton.

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Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
482.90	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
150.40	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

BANKS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

BUILDING MATERIALS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

CHEMICALS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

CONSTRUCTION

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

DISTRIBUTORS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

HEALTHCARE

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

INSURANCE

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

MEDIA

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

PHARMACEUTICALS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

SUPPORT SERVICES

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

LEISURE & HOTELS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

MINING

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

PROPERTY

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	12.2

TRANSPORT

Stock	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.35	100	-0.5	5.4	1

Absurd plot but ideas developed nicely

I was certainly not the only critic with serious reservations about Stephen Poliakoff's *Shooting The Past* (BBC2), which slammed its way to some sort of resolution last night. But I confess I was a little startled by the degree of admiration this enigmatic three-part series elicited from many who saw it, including friends whose judgements I usually trust.

I began to feel a little churlish, especially since, on reflection, I could think of few, if any, dramatists since Dennis Potter who attempt to use television in such an original and provocative way. Poliakoff still thinks television can be a grown-up art form, tackling radical questions about art, culture, life, the Universe and everything. He is an heir to the tradition of Huw Wheldon, and I suppose we should be grateful for that alone.

And it was partly because Poliakoff carries this torch that I found the first episode so exasper-

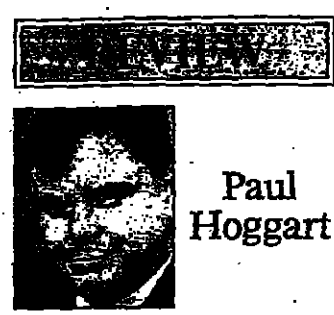
ating. The play kept assailing my credulity, throwing up fences too high to jump. Why were the new American owners of the picture library only corresponding about their plans to sell the collection, close down the business and redesign the interior of the historic building it was housed in, with one member of the staff there, who wasn't even in overall control?

Why had Oswald Bates hidden this correspondence from his colleagues? How did this outfit get permission to rip out the ornate interior of what was obviously a listed building? (If it wasn't meant to be that special, why film it at Ham House?) Did no architects or designers visit the place to plan this refit or were they just going to make it up as they went along? Why didn't Marilyn Truman hit the phone as soon as the Americans arrived?

I won't bother you with more of these questions, but there were

dozens of them, and none got proper answers. I spent the whole first episode balking at things, and balking seriously interferes with suspension of disbelief.

Oh well, it is art, I suppose, not to be taken too literally, and this was, philosophically, an ambitious piece. Poliakoff was articulating several thematic strands, each one admirable in its way. There was the inherent wonder of the photographic archive seen as an almost magical repository of truths about human experience, an inexhaustible mine of unexpected connections and revelations. Last night the collection revealed to the American businessman Christopher Anderson (Liam Cunningham) that his grandmother was a promiscuous, drug-abusing probable murderer, a metaphor. We all have something dark in our past, apparently.



Paul Hoggart

There is the cultural vandalism of an aesthetics-driven planning which knows the price of everything and the value of nothing. Hardly original, and I wish he had not embodied this process in crassly caricatured Americans. The home-grown version sweeping more public services is much more insidious and rather more relevant to this situation. But Poliakoff knows that. It was the Britian

Beet that flogged the Hulston collection: hard-headed Americans bought it. Still, the general point is worth repeating.

Then came the psychological effects of redundancy, forced redeployment, downsizing, constructive dismissal. Above all, the question of the failure of homogenised "human resources" management used to recognise idiosyncratic talent or wayward genius, let alone value it. All this was grippingly captured in Timothy Spall's Oswald, whose lightning lateral mind and literary phlegm graphic memory could pick out the same face reappearing in snaps separated by decades and thousands of miles. Balk. Oopsy, sorry.

Poliakoff's other genius lies in the texture of the drama, full of unusual nuances, each scene constantly twisting away from its apparent course. This can be annoyingly self-conscious. The characters second-guess each

other, playing games with the audience's expectations. But intense emotion creeps up unexpectedly, about things we don't normally find particularly moving.

He elicits riveting performances (Lindsay Duncan was spellbinding). The slow, atmospheric direction is hypnotic. When he does not drift into absurdity, nothing touches the quality of his writing. If only I could stop that balking.

It is an unbreakable rule of costume drama that the stately homes of the aristocracy are bathed in brilliant, gleaming light, despite being lit by candles; whereas big cities are shrouded in perpetual darkness. In the first of three *Scarlet Pimpernel* (BBC1) films, last night, Revolutionary Paris appeared to be going through some kind of nuclear winter.

At least there is no need to worry about balking. This is pure corn-

fed escapism nonsense. The pre-publicity tells us that "that damned elusive Pimpernel" is an 18th-century James Bond, a point echoed in the incidental music. He even had the miniature secret agent's gadget kit concealed about his person. There's a dash of Biggles, and since the saviour of the French aristocracy acts the effete but witty top, a dollop of Oscar Wilde. Richard E. Grant obviously loves every minute. And with one bound our hero was free of anything resembling artistic pretensions.

But there is easier if you don't think too much about certain matters. Such as whether your hamster feels shame, or the goldfish is clinically depressed. *Do Animals Have Emotions?*, the second in the *Animal Minds* series (BBC2), explained that baboons get stressed ulcers, macaws get jealous and chickens don't like standing on wire mesh. I swear I saw the cat balking at the television.

6.00am Business Breakfast (32222)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (78651)
9.00 Kiboy (7810729)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (7873698)
10.55 News: Regional News; Weather (7842293)
11.00 Carol Roes (7862670)
11.25 Real! Cook, Won't Cook (7839729)
11.55 News: Regional News; Weather (7855125)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (49090)
12.30 Wipeout (3104670)
12.55 The Weather Show (7859692)
1.00 One O'Clock News; Weather (789038)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (8634322)
1.40 Neighbours (78523545)
2.05 Inbetween (7816079)
2.55 Body Spies New series. Daily programme following the efforts of keep-fit marines to stick to new year resolutions. (5030470)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (1574354)
3.45 The Littlest Pet Shop (8718477)
3.55 Badger and Badger (8620767) **4.00 Pocket Dragon Adventures** (8672477)
4.15 Rugrats (1119800) **4.35 Miley Gals** (1389361) **5.00 Newsround** (5105090)
5.10 Blue Peter (2445545)
5.35 Neighbours (7855233)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (7841)
6.50 Regional News Magazine (293)
7.00 This is Your Life (78702)
7.30 Watchdog Healthcheck Report on drugs available via the Internet without a prescription (7877)
8.00 EastEnders Grant fights to clear his name (78748)
8.30 Dad Alan seems to be the only member of the family missing out on a healthy sex life. Comedy, starring George Cole and Kevin McNally (78583)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (7899)
9.30 Paddington Green Aspiring restaurateur Samer Vassant begins to catch the heart of his first customer as opening-day approaches and the builders fall behind schedule (78900)
9.45 Panorama Investigation into the alarming rise in cases of food poisoning (7803545)
10.00 Match of the Day Highlights of Oxford United v Chelsea in the FA Cup (785501)
11.25 By the Sword (1991) Pontifex, an ex-fencing champion (F. Munsey Abraham) starts work as caretaker at a sword-fighting academy run by the son of a man he killed in a duel. Directed by Jeremy Paul Kagan (784651)
12.50am Weather (8284341)
12.55 BBC News 24 (84823715)

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: The Family Nest (8544457) **7.05 Teletubbies** (2678564) **7.30 Secret Squirrel** and **Co** (3557406) **7.55 Blue Peter** (2701038) **8.20 Taz-Mania** (8501816) **8.40 Polka Dot** (8503939) **8.50 Forward the Reeler** (8575833) **9.00 Degrassi: On Two Sides** (7708554) **9.10 Short Circuit** (1122019) **9.30 Writing and Pictures** (8988651) **9.45 Storytime** (8993106) **10.00 Children's BBC: Teletubbies** (32551) **10.30 Daytime Owl** Words and Pictures (8542000) **10.45 Cat Eyes** (5547545) **11.00 Look and Read** (1104854) **11.20 Zig Zag** (8121835) **11.40 Landmarks** (8336632) **12.05pm History File** (4155832) **12.30 Working Lunch** (89106)
1.00 Children's BBC: Remond the Reindeer (73314274)
1.10 The Great Picture Chase Buying words of art (78210038)
1.40 The Arts and Crafts Show Making a slatted sofa (8504038)
2.10 Sporting Greats With Alan Ball (22850212)
2.40 News; Weather (7893477)
2.45 Match of the Day With Geoff Hurst (215) (7821928)
3.25 News; Weather (7839038)
3.30 The Face on the Milk Carton (TVM 1989) Moving drama about an adopted student who sets out to find her biological parents. With Kellie Martin. Directed by Wally Hussell (78748)
5.00 Tennis: Australian Open The start of the second week (4011)
6.00 The Simpsons (7854870)
6.20 The Simpsons (7854818)
6.45 Hit, Miss or Maybe (785816)
7.00 Britannia Tom McEneaney tells the story of the Royal Navy (7870)
7.30 Against the Grain Controversial farmer Oliver Walsby concludes his hard-headed analysis of British agriculture with a look at the future of the industry (7849)
8.00 Raising the Roof Paul Keryon discovers that rising drink may be little more than a myth (216) (78900)
8.30 Food and Drink Rick Stein creates a seafood recipe and Antony Worrall Thompson warms up with venison chili (78125)
9.00 Red Dwarf (781) (8941)
9.30 Laigae of Gentlemen (782670)
10.00 The Fast Show Comedy sketch show (789) (781) (48361)
10.30 Newsnight With Jeremy Paxman (784019)
11.15 A Place of Safety (852767)
11.55 Weather (854958)
12.00am Despatch Box Political news (35133)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone

5.30am ITN Morning News (78212)
6.00 GMTV (8436354)
6.25 Today (7820125)
10.30 This Morning (78487835)
12.15pm ITN News and Weather (7803903)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News; Weather (78332)
1.00 Home and Away (785903)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show (78540309)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (786851)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (7820380)
3.30 ITN News (78227293)
3.35 CITY: Mopshop's Shop (2517818) **3.35 Mopshop** (8160303) **3.45 The Adventures of Captain Pugwash** (8168274) **4.00 Oogy and the Cockroaches** (438011) **4.20 It's a Mystery** (2338831) **4.45 Sabrina the Teenage Witch** (1582941)
5.10 WEST: Painting Wild Wales (7801862)
5.10 WALES: Money-spinners (7801862)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (7816212)
6.00 Home and Away (785903)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (787477)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight (780309)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (7801862)
6.50 HTV Wales News (7820380)
7.00 Welsh You Were Here? The quieter side of Majorca, a cruise around the French and Italian Riviera and clubbing in Rimini (78496)
7.30 Coronation Street The Websters' feud intensifies (78545)



True-life hospital drama with the Trauma Team (8pm)

8.00 Trauma Team Staff nurse Peter McGraw arrives in A&E as a patient, while the animal handler whose arm was bitten off by a tiger reveals in all the media attention (216) (7816)
8.30 Carol Vorderman's Better Homes The DIY team visit Halifax (4/10) (78351)
9.00 The Vice Part Two Cheryl hits a brick wall in her search for rent boy Brendan, believing his parents are hiding vital information about his past (4/10) (78421)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (7850270)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (7850270)
10.40 Nash Bridges (7832477)
11.40 Midweek Football Extra: Football League Highlights (833882)
1.40 World Football International soccer (7827294)
2.10 Son of Dracula (1943) Atmospheric chiller in which the count visits America's Deep South in search of fresh blood. Lon Chaney Jr. stars. Directed by Robert Siodmak (872159)
3.40 Trivia Show earlier (781) (8073355)
4.40 TV Newsnight (3418551)
5.00 Coronation Street (782268)

As HTV West except:
12.20-12.30pm Central News (8619651)
1.00 High Road (78106)
1.30 The Jerry Springer Show (8648108)
2.15-2.45 Home and Away (864830)
3.20-3.35 Central News (8627233)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8601962)
6.25-7.00 Central News; Weather (8020309)
10.30-10.40 Central News; Weather (802070)
11.40-12.40 Renegade (342600)
3.30am Trisha (74189)
4.30 Central Jobfinder '99 (8430249)
5.20-5.30 Asian Eye (4880317)

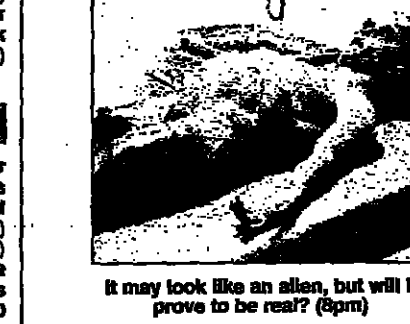
As HTV West except:
12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Weather (7803903)
12.27-12.30 Illuminations (8627670) **1.00 High Road** (78106) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (7848108) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (864830) **3.20-3.35 Westcountry News; Weather** (7803903)
5.08 Birthday People (851800) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (7801962) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry News; Weather** (7803903)
11.40-12.40 The Wright Verdicts (342600)

As HTV West except:
12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (8093903) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (7801962) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (7801962) **6.30-7.00 Country Ways** (781) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News; Weather** (7803903) **11.40-12.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H** (342600) **5.00am-5.30 Freezone** (782268)

Starb: **5.55am Sesame Street** (7855000) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (47633854) **9.00 Yagellon: The English Programme** (8989651) **9.25 Schools at Work** (72176477) **9.30 Geography Junction** (8928184) **9.45 Book Box** (8926309) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (3450918) **10.15 Victorian Scots** (3451570) **10.30 Place and People** (7897259) **10.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (8370361) **11.00 Deep South** (18773564) **11.15 The Mole** (18763187) **11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier** (7821554) **12.00pm Flight to Reply** (7821554) **12.30 Sesame Street** (8215039) **1.00 Planned Parenthood** (7801962) **1.30 The Law** (8513303) **2.00 Time Team** (78348870) **3.00 The Lost Kingdom of Heligan** (3/8) (781) (8223039) **3.30 Hampton Court Palace** (78599545) **4.00 Fifteen to One** (78088380) **4.30 The Montel Williams Show** (78590344) **5.00 Planned Parenthood** (7801962) **5.30 Countdown** (78599545) **6.00 Newsnight** (7801962) **6.30 The Law** (8513303) **7.00 The Law** (8513303) **7.30 Newsnight** (7801962) **8.00 Dudley** (78599545) **8.30 Pity Ditty** (78235955) **9.00 Y Byd Ar Beddwr** (7827816) **9.30 Spoglo** (78467835) **10.35 FILM: Money for Nothing** (8513303) **11.30 The Handmaid's Tale** (78160388) **2.30 Dhridd** **4.00 Yagellon:**

5.55am Sesame Street (4425212)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (61361)
9.00 Schools:
9.00 The English Programme (6112477) **9.25 Schools at Work** (7944019) **9.30 Geography Junction** (8980919) **9.45 Book Box** (8978274) **10.00 Stage Two Science** (8190212) **10.15 Victorian Scots** (8190335) **10.30 Place and People** (8382870) **10.45 Stop, Look, Listen** (2384903) **11.00 Rat-A-Tat-Tat** (612187)
11.15 The Mole (8135038)
11.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (781) (78274)
12.00pm Sesame Street (780800)
12.30 Bewitched (78274)
1.00 Pet Rescue (781) (71748)
1.30 Roots to Success (786350019)
1.45 Collectors' Lot (78739309)
1.55 Outlaw Island (1946) British comedy starring George Thorpe and Marjorie Fielding. Directed by Harold French (78126380)
3.30 Hampton Court Palace (787)
4.00 Fifteen to One (78274)
4.30 Countdown (7898900)
4.55 Montel Williams (78470458)
5.30 Pet Rescue (7858)
6.00 Dishes (7851)
6.30 Hollyoaks Kate confronts her mother (7803)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (7841403)
7.50 Music of the Millennium (7809293)

12.00pm Sesame Street (780800)
12.30 Bewitched (78274)
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7.50 Music of the Millennium (7809293)



It may look like an alien, but will it prove to be real? (8pm)

8.00 The Roswell Incident Examination of the facts surrounding one of the poster era's most persistent enigmas - the alleged UFO crash outside Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. (781) (7829)
9.00 Mayday Investigation into design faults in shipping, which have led to notorious tragedies such as the *Donna Paz* disaster and the loss of oil-rig off the Irish coast. *The Fleet of Free Enterprise* (1987) (4/4) (7803)
10.00 Money for Nothing (TVM 1983) An unemployed dockworker stumbles across a stash of untraceable money and decides to keep it. Starring John Cusack. Directed by Ramon Menendez (786670)
11.55 Shooting Gallery Short films (529767)
11.55 A Star Act (890722)
12.00pm Sesame Street (780800)
12.30 Bewitched (78274)
1.00 Pet Rescue (781) (71748)
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7.50 Music of the Millennium (7809293)

6.00am 5 News and Sport Headlines, sport and business (7548309)
7.00 WideWorld Part two. Maggie Philbin explores science in everyday life (781) (7863212)
7.30 Millikel (8201895)
7.35 Wipeout's House (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
8.00 Newsnight (7807816)
8.30 Dappledawn Farm (781) **5 News Update** (1706187)
9.00 What's Good for You? (7820767)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (7858951)
10.20 Sunset Beach Olivia nearly spills the beans (7874308)
11.10 Liza (2644835)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (780903)
12.30 Family Affairs (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
1.00 The Secret and the Beautiful (7863583)
1.30 The Roseanne Show With Country star Loretta Lynn and actress Caroline Rhea (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
2.00 100 Per Cent (8696903)
2.30 Good Afternoon Lifestyle magazine, incorporating real-life soap *Liverpool Mums*, Eric Knowles with Sailing the Family Silver and word and Cryptogram. **5 News Update** (4195767)
3.30 Harvey (TVM 1987) Harry Anderson stars as a middle-aged bachelor with an imaginary white rabbit as his friend. *Swizzle Kurtz* plays the ambitious sister trying to have him married. Directed by George Schaefer (7827458)
5.30 Sunset Beach Show earlier (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (8587125)
6.30 Family Affairs Holly gets cold feet (7848564)
7.00 5 News; Weather (7807018)
7.30 Wild Flight Attempts to save the Australian cockatoo from extinction (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
8.00 Weather Frank Kask, Lodger, Paul Smors and Chris Thornton examine issues surrounding global weather systems (781) (786670)
8.30 Road Rage Jokes about lady drivers are laid to rest with evidence that men are responsible for 94 per cent of motoring offences, though functions still prove hazards for women (4/5) (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
9.00 The Face (TVM 1988) Yasmine Bleeth stars as a withdrawn, disgraced woman who vows to exact revenge on the former lover who framed her for a crime he committed. Directed by Jack Bender (781) **5 News Update** (8587125)
10.50 Dr Fox's Chart Update Pop hits (480803)
10.55 Bonnet Brides (TVM 1980) An unconventional detective assembles a posse of mentally unbalanced cops to track down a wealthy couple's killer. Directed by Miguel Ferrer. Directed by Kim Manners (78460318)
12.45am Live and Dangerous Snowboarding at the Winter X Olympics (7809595)
4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H The Worthen prisoners organise a petition, and Bobbie Innes herself in danger (850084)
5.30 100 Per Cent (7846309)

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PESO LINK 45
Roger Bootle
on lessons from
Argentina

BUSINESS

CASHCOW 46
Art galleries
make money
out of Monet

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

MONDAY JANUARY 25 1999

Plans to overhaul electricity pool in jeopardy

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to overhaul the electricity marketplace — a pivotal part of the Energy White Paper — are in trouble and unlikely to meet next year's deadline.

Without a reform of the controversial electricity "pool", the Government will be forced to maintain its *de facto* ban on new gas-fired power stations. This will increase generators who are already frustrated at the stranglehold an expansion plans.

Last October Peter Mandelson, then Trade and Industry Secretary, ordered the pool to be scrapped and new gas stations to be effectively

banned to make the energy market fairer for coal. His Energy White Paper followed a year of crisis for RJB Mining, the biggest producer, after the expiry of government contracts.

Tomorrow John Battle, Energy Minister, will be told by power companies and advisers on pool reform that the deadline of April next year

is impossible. He will also be told that legislation will be necessary because all the parties involved in the pool are unlikely to endorse reform.

The Government has no legislative slot for pool reform. It may hope to insert it into a Bill on utility regulation, although there is no time booked for that Bill.

On top of the impasse hit by the reform programme, there are growing fears about a legal minefield when power companies are forced to unravel long-term contracts linked to pool prices.

These widely used "contracts for differences" are tied to prevailing pool prices. When there is no such thing, lawyers have said that dis-

manting the contracts will be highly problematic.

The Government will replace the pool, in which generators bid in prices and are paid partly according to the power stations they can run, with bilateral contracts.

This could raise the risk of supply failures because the process

will not be centralised. The pool was created, primarily, to ensure that the lights stay on.

Tomorrow's meeting between Mr Battle, the industry, pool advisers and consumers groups is the first cross-interest one he has called more than three months after the White Paper. Some key groups have not met at all yet.

Blank wants Mirror to fire Montgomery

BY RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SIR VICTOR BLANK, chairman of Mirror Group, is to put a formal motion for the removal of his chief executive, David Montgomery, at a board meeting tomorrow.

Sir Victor will claim that Mr Montgomery, who has run the newspaper group for more than six years, has lost the confidence of the non-executive directors. However, it is not clear if all the non-executives, who include Sonia Land, Lord Borrie and Alan Clements share this view.

Indeed, Mr Clements, who is deputy chairman of Mirror, is planning to raise questions about the way that Sir Victor has been conducting the negotiations with the two bidders circling Mirror, Regional Independent Media and Trinity.

Mr Clements raised a number of questions about Sir Victor's behaviour in a meeting with non-executive directors last week. One of the complaints is that Sir Victor did not inform a Mirror board meeting on January 11 that the previous day he had been telephoned by Sir Norman

Fowler, chairman of RIM requesting a meeting.

At a meeting on January 15 Sir Norman handed over a written offer proposal. A document produced by Mr Clements also questions whether Sir Victor met Mirror shareholders without advisers present — something that should not happen during an offer period.

Sir Victor will claim that shareholders speaking for at least 35 per cent, including the Mirror's largest shareholder Phillips & Drew, the fund manager, agree with his move. Some shareholders have said that they may call an extraordinary meeting to oust Mr Montgomery if he refuses to resign.

The acrimonious dispute at the heart of the Mirror board is coming to a head while a 200p share cash offer worth £913 million is on the table from Regional Independent Media, publisher of the Yorkshire Post.

Events are being watched closely by Trinity, the UK's largest regional newspaper group, which offered an all-share deal worth about 160p a share. It then pulled out of talks.

RIM has made it clear that it is likely to submit a higher offer for Mirror but only after much fuller disclosure of information — something that has yet to happen. City analysts have put a 25p price tag on Mirror. Any removal of Mr Montgomery will be viewed as a negative by RIM, which fears being shut out of the deal.

Maxwell policy could lead to £50m boost

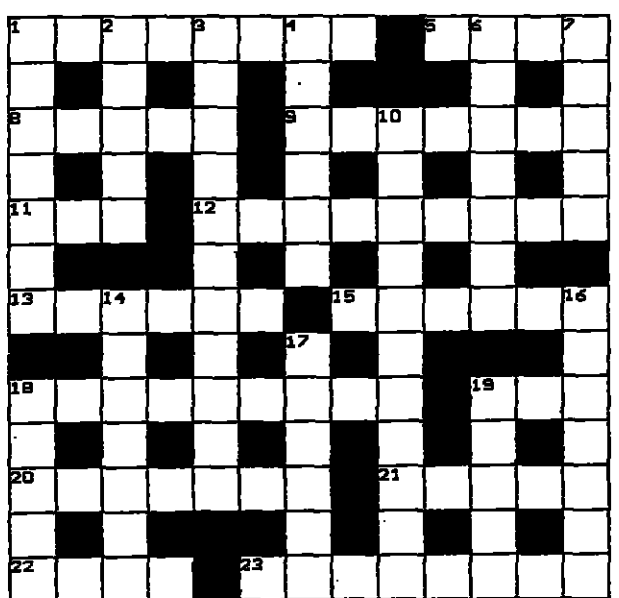
MIRROR GROUP could gain up to £50 million from the settlement of an insurance claim brought by it, the Maxwell pension funds and Maxwell Communication Corporation over the disappearance of more than £500 million in the months before and after Robert Maxwell's death in 1991 (Jason Nisbet writes).

The two former Maxwell companies, and their pension funds, are claiming under a fraud policy, but the insurers

say that if there was fraud, Robert Maxwell, who signed the policy, would have known it was being perpetrated and that this invalidates the claim.

Lord Hurd of Westwell, the former Foreign Secretary, is to arbitrate on the case at a meeting due to start next week. If he rules against the insurers, Mirror would benefit in its own right and also because it helped to meet pension fund shortfalls and so has first claim on recoveries.

TWO CROSSWORD



No 1623

ACROSS

- 1 Clothes cupboard (8)
- 5 Lyric poems (4)
- 8 Non-conformist (5)
- 9 Interrupt me up (7)
- 11 Child: little drink (3)
- 12 (Fr. king's) scarlet banner (9)
- 13 Well-behaved (6)
- 15 (Genetic) cross (6)
- 18 Quilled creature (9)
- 19 Coat of eg 7 down (3)
- 20 Mountaineer (7)
- 21 Eating implement (5)
- 22 Long, heroic tale (4)
- 23 (Sole) in butter, lemon, parsley (8)

DOWN

- 1 (Eg kitchen) surface (7)
- 2 Disprove allegation (5)
- 3 Empirical guide (4,2,5)
- 4 Blunt needle (6)
- 6 Percussion player (7)
- 7 (Brown) marten: black (5)
- 10 Period short of news (5,6)
- 14 Lying in wait: in the background (7)
- 16 Send mad (7)
- 17 Transfix (6)
- 18 Steps (5)
- 19 Was very cold: stopped moving (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1622

ACROSS: 1 As bold as brass; 8 Thistle; 9 Chafe; 10 Fog; 11 Register; 13 Costly; 14 Tissue; 17 Pince-nez; 19 Dam; 21 Mafia; 22 Seducer; 24 Stratospheric.
DOWN: 1 Artefact; 2 Bridges; 3 Let 4 Avenue; 5 Buck's fizz; 6 Adage; 7 Seek; 11 Reluctant; 12 Mesmeric; 15 Sidecar; 16 Gnosis; 18 Infer; 20 Amos; 23 Doh.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

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Michael Hardern, left, king of the carpetbaggers, has a new adversary in Martin Bell, MP and former war correspondent

Bell takes on carpetbaggers

BY SUSAN EMMETT

MICHAEL HARDERN, the freelance butler leading the attempts to turn Britain's building societies into banks, has a new adversary. Martin Bell, the white-suited MP for Totton, has embarked on a crusade to save mutuals from conversion and called on MPs to declare their building society accounts on the register of members' interests.

The anti-sleaze campaigner targeted carpetbaggers by stating that windfall

payments should not be part of the conversion vote process.

Although notorious carpetbaggers such as Mr Hardern would be in the first line of fire, Mr Bell's proposals could also draw attention to MPs who might have a vested interest in the mutualisation debate.

However, Mr Bell has yet to reveal whether he holds any building society accounts. Building societies based near his Cheshire constituency include the Cheshire, the Manchester, the Marsden and the Vernon.

Bob Goodall who co-ordinates the Save Our Building Societies campaign, said: "It's obvious that if an MP had something to hide he would not introduce the subject as public debate."

Mr Bell, the former BBC war correspondent, said that building society votes could only be truly democratic if the windfall element was removed.

Mr Bell said that he was "concerned that votes for conversion are backed up with what can only be described as a bribe".

BP to exploit Mobil barrier

BY CARL MORTIMER
INTERNATIONAL
BUSINESS EDITOR

BP AMOCO looks set to take advantage of a European competition barrier to Exxon's plans to merge with Mobil by striking a deal to gain control of refining businesses worth about £3 billion.

BP has a joint venture with Mobil in Europe and the most likely result of the complex situation is that BP could buy all of Mobil's downstream assets so that the deal with Exxon can go through. The BP Mobil joint venture has already brought savings of about £500 million in their joint operations.

The US Federal Trade Commission has requested a mountain of further information from Exxon which has yet to file its agreement to take over Mobil with the European Commission. However, the European competition regulator said it had already been in contact with Exxon.

The market is worried that the Exxon/Mobil deal will trip up at the starting blocks. Mobil's share price is at an 8 per cent discount to its implied value on the Exxon merger terms.

Rodney Chase, BP's deputy chief executive said that BP was confident about the outcome of negotiations with Exxon/Mobil. "They wish to conclude a merger. We are keen to help them to do so."

According to Wood Mackenzie, the consultants, the £3 billion BP/Mobil European oil products venture has a market share of 10.6 per cent. Adding Exxon's European downstream assets would create a petrol and lubricants behemoth with over 20 per cent of the European market.

Greens campaign, page 44

P&S may face auction sale

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

PORTSMOUTH & Sunderland Newspapers yesterday said that it has received a number of bid approaches over the weekend after the launch of a £16 a share offer made on Friday by rival publisher, Johnston Press.

P&S denounced a hostile move by Johnston as "opportunistic" and told their shareholders to ignore the tender offer which closes on Saturday.

The newspaper and convenience store group said that it had received at least two other approaches since Friday when Johnston Press bought a 14.99 per cent stake and launched a tender offer for a further 10 per cent. Johnston is also seeking regulatory approval to take a controlling interest in P&S.

In a letter to be sent to shareholders today, Sir Stephen Waley-Cohen, the P&S chairman, argues that Johnston

Press is trying to buy P&S "on the cheap".

The Johnston Press move follows rejection of an unsolicited approach to P&S in November. "We believe that the tender offer significantly under-values P&S's earnings and growth potential which we considered in detail when deciding to reject Johnston's previous approach," Sir Stephen will tell shareholders.

P&S declined to give further details yesterday on the other preliminary approaches but they are believed to include both potential financial bidders as well as a newspaper group.

P&S management recognises that the Johnston action has put the company in play and it is prepared to recommend an offer that values the company's potential. The Johnston offer would value P&S at £191 million.

Bumpy ride forecast for retailers

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

GLOOM in the high street is likely to persist for several more months but then retailers can expect fortunes to improve, according to a Verdict survey published today.

But in the long term high street shops will face a harder fight for customers against a proliferation of electronic sales. The retail consultancy predicts tougher conditions and falling profit margins over the next five years. It forecasts a big growth in retailing capacity with the equivalent of 25 new big regional shopping centres being built. This, along with increased use of shopping by home computer, will mean that retailing is a buyer's market.

Verdict forecasts that this year there will be real growth of 2.1 per cent in retail sales — taking the total to £198 billion and on to £208 billion next year.

Electra and 3i in talks

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

A HUGE shake-up in Britain's venture capital industry will be signalled today when 3i announces that it is in talks to buy Electra Investment Trust for about £1.25 billion.

The pair started talks ten days ago for 3i to buy Electra. The takeover would shake up the private equity market and propel 3i into a more central role with stakes in large businesses. In the past, it has not had a great deal of success in large transactions. It has been suggested that 3i could bid up to 725p a share for Electra — compared with a price of 563p on Friday. Electra's net asset value will today be set at



Stoddart: shares at discount

less than £7 when the company comments on the talks. Shares in Electra, which is chaired by Michael Stoddart, the venture capital guru, have been trading at a discount of

up to 30 per cent to its net asset value. This is largely because its portfolio is concentrated in large investments.

3i specialises in smaller development capital situations, and its shares have tended to trade at or above net asset value.

A sticking point to the deal may be Electra's contract with Electra Fleming, a joint venture with Robert Fleming, the merchant bank. Electra Fleming manages the trust and may want a continued role in the expanded 3i structure.

Both companies are keen to expand their operations in Europe, with 3i already having built beachheads in France and Germany.

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WEEKDAYS 8.30am - 6.30pm

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